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PUBLISHER Lorne London

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Ron Johnson
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER-IT Jarrod Daley

EDITORIAL
EXECUTIVE EDITOR Julia Mastroianni
FOOD EDITOR Jennifer Schembri

ART
ART DIRECTOR Dorothy Chudzinski
MANAGING ART DIRECTOR Lindsay Low
SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER Erin Neilly
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ PRODUCTION Kristine Hughes

SOCIAL
SENIOR SOCIAL EDITOR Leanna Hosier
CONTENT CREATOR Kaitlin Narciso

SALES
VP OF SALES Lisa London
DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING Lynne London
MEDIA ADVISORS Jo-Anne Craine
Rachel Roth-Finkelstein
Clara Strebel
ACCOUNT CO-ORDINATORS George Redak
Carly Roebuck

ADMINISTRATION
CONTROLLER Tina Trevellin
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OFFICE/CLASSIFIEDS MANAGER Lance Garvey
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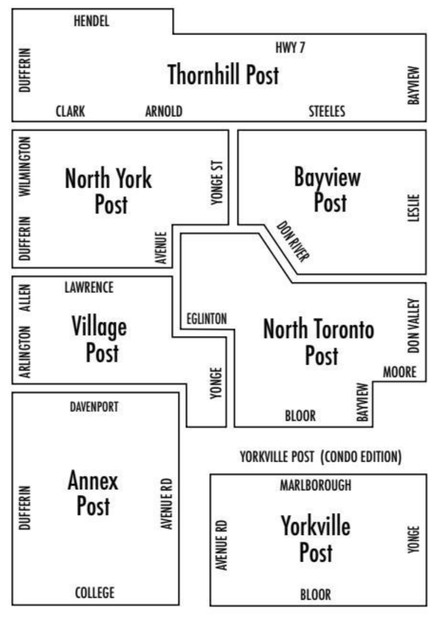

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Newsmaker Queen Priyanka takes centre stage at Pride

Since winning the first season of *Canada's Drag Race,* Priyanka has parlayed her success and become the best-known queen in Toronto. Now, we chat with her about her show at Pride, dealing with the ignorant haters and, yes, her fave local restaurants.

What are you up to at Pride this month?
Well I'm getting a big show at the AGO on June 9. And it's gonna be f**king lit. I'm excited because last year, I had my Toronto party at Yonge-Dundas Square. And it feels so cool to be doing a more curated show in the gallery after a year of live singing and live performance under my belt. It feels like a grown-up way to come back for pride this year.

Are you shocked to see the anti-drag protests in T.O.?
It's shocking. I mean, I always felt protected because I am Canadian, right? You see things going on in America and all over the world, and you say to yourself, "Oh, Canada isn't like that." Toronto is such a beautiful city where we're all accepted. I can walk around in drag, no one will care. But because of laws being put into place in America, it has just awakened the conservative beast in many people all over the world that they [anti-drag protests] are really OK.

Tell us about your first Pride.
My first Pride was like, seven years ago. I just came out of the closet, and I was met by all my friends who were like, "Wait, it's your first Pride?" I remember walking up and down Church Street and everyone had glitter on their faces. And you know, they have the mom hugs and all this stuff. It was so inspiring to see how fearless these people were because I lived in the closet for so many years. So just to see that on the other side of how fun and happy it can be to be a gay person — that is my favourite part. And that's why every single Pride I try to be as gay as possible because I hope that I can inspire the next generation of people who are closeted, who aren't as comfortable being themselves to come on out and walk along Church Street and just feel as gay as they need to.

What does Pride mean to you?
It's interesting because — although we just touched on those things — a big part of pride is the fearlessness of being a trans person, a queer person, a gay person, a bi person, whatever kind of person you want to be.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Eating!

What are your fave restaurants?
I always take everyone to New Ho King because it's open late. But I also like Thai food so Pai at Yonge and Eglinton. I would say those two are my favourite. But usually for someone's birthday, my mom makes us drive out to Markham to go to Sam Woo BBQ. It's the best Chinese food in Canada.

What Torontonian would you most like to hang out with?
I love these questions. I would say Nelly Furtado. She is the best.

What is your greatest fear?
I would say, probably, I don't like snakes. And I'm afraid of stalkers.

Which living person do you most admire?
It has to be my mom. She's hilarious.

What is your personal motto?
My personal motto is work so hard that your dreams come true because mine did, motherf**ker.

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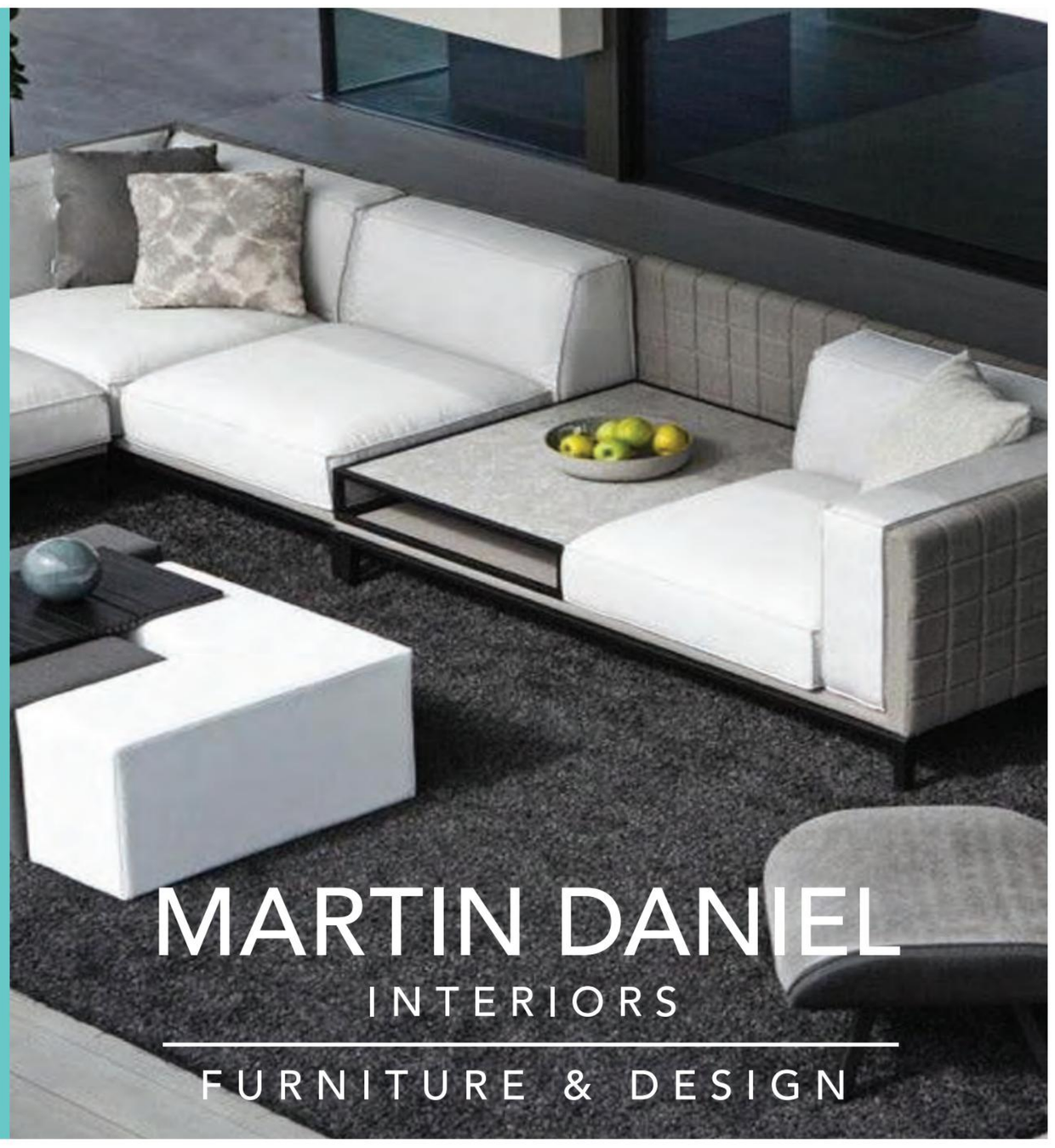

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L-R: Ana Bailão, Josh Matlow, Olivia Chow and Mark Saunders

FROM 102 TO 4: HERE'S OUR TOP MAYORAL PICKS

Four are leading in the polls, all four from different sides of the political spectrum. But what separates the people from the policies? We conducted a series of interviews to find out.

The latest poll shows the top contenders are Olivia Chow, Josh Matlow, Ana Bailão, and Mark Saunders. But beyond the politics, what are these candidates really like?

POST: Where is the first place in the city you send visitors?

JOSH MATLOW: There's no one place. There are many, including Kensington Market, the Islands, the Bluffs, Rouge Park and more!

ANA BAILÃO: Little Portugal of course!

MARK SAUNDERS: Raptors game if the schedule allows.

OLIVIA CHOW: The music garden in the summer, the AGO in the winter.

POST: What was your first job?

MARK: Farm hand – hardest job I've had.

OLIVIA: I snapped buttons onto pants as a seamstress in a factory on Spadina.

JOSH: Delivering newspapers for the Toronto Star.

ANA: Cleaning offices in downtown Toronto with my mother when I was 15.

POST: Favourite restaurant?

OLIVIA: Bar Raval, or a Chinese hot pot place: Liuyishou.

MARK: Queen's Pasta Cafe.

JOSH: Tao Northern Chinese Cuisine.

ANA: Mercatto.

POST: What do you dislike most about the city right now?

OLIVIA: How stuck Toronto has become. People are feeling stuck: sitting in traffic, waiting for the bus, trying to get affordable housing or trying to access city services. We can do better — and we will.

JOSH: For far too long, when it comes to housing, architecture, infrastructure, public space and even basic services, our city has reached for the height of mediocrity. I know we can do so much better.

MARK: Right now, that we're normalizing things like homelessness, addiction and crime on the TTC.

ANA: Lack of affordability in Toronto.

POST: Favourite place to get away from it all?

OLIVIA: Camping at our provincial and national parks. I spend my summers camping along a river.

MARK: Walking my dog in the Scarborough Bluffs.

JOSH: Our ravines.

POST: Have you ever commuted by bicycle in the city?

ANA: Yes, I cycle around Davenport to run errands and see my friends and family.

JOSH: Yes.

MARK: Not recently.

OLIVIA: I'm a year-round cyclist. I even cycle to some of my campaign events.

POST: What's your best quality?

OLIVIA: Empathy.

JOSH: I approach things with compassion and empathy.

ANA: Whether it's city council, community leaders or the provincial or federal government, I have always been good at working with others to deliver for our city.

MARK: My ability to listen.

For full interviews with all six candidates visit StreetsofToronto.com.

The Crosstown LRT was first scheduled to open in 2021

Who is to blame for Crosstown's epic fail

The Eglinton Crosstown LRT has become a symbol of what is wrong with the city. It doesn't matter that it is a provincial project. The way that Ford has involved himself in city business has blurred the lines.

The Crosstown is over budget with no end date in sight. It seems to endlessly carry on with little concern for the impact on neighbours, businesses or local traffic.

When Metrolinx or the provincial government is asked about the delays, they obfuscate, deflect and deny. The reality is that politics inflated the budget, the timelines were unreasonable, and Metrolinx has had to learn a few hard lessons in project management.

Although the federal Liberal government cannot be held to account for the current debacle, they are responsible for adding the unbudgeted stations of Leslie and Chesswood to the tune of $500 million and, with it, delays.

When the Crosstown first broke ground it was the largest transit project in Canada. Construction projects run into unexpected problems, and digging a tunnel through existing infrastructure is complicated.

The timeline was likely too aggressive. It is difficult to say if the 260 deficiencies recently identified are reasonable or not, given the scope of the project. It seems odd that Eglinton station is being dug up before it even opened and the tracks on the route were not laid to specifications. What is reasonable is to expect that Metrolinx will provide a revised timeline.

What is clear is that Metrolinx acted like it knew more than the TTC throughout the entire project. This hubris is now its Achilles heel.

Although many of these things can be explained, it does little to ease the suffering of many businesses and communities that have been under construction for a decade. It certainly seems that no government understands or cares or there would be a stronger commitment to a timeline.

We can only hope that the lessons learned will be applied to the Ontario Line.

There was a time when governments existed to make life more livable. The mayoral candidate who understands this and can articulate a way forward has a chance of wearing the mayor's chains on election day.

KAREN STINTZ is a former city councillor and was a chair of the TTC.

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Mayoral candidates at the first debate of the campaign

Why is this election so boring?

There are certainly enough interesting candidates running, with a diversity of views. The total number — in excess of 100 candidates — is somewhat surprising. Usually there are about 50 candidates, although 50 or 100, what's the difference?

The four or five significant candidates offer a variety of policies and experiences, so there are good choices available. And there is no shortage of issues facing the city.

But there are a number of problems those candidates have difficulty surmounting.

First is the size of the city — more than three million people, by far the largest electoral district in Canada. This enormity makes most of us feel quite irrelevant when thinking our vote can have an impact. So we tend to treat the election as a low priority for our attention.

When the megacity was created by then premier Mike Harris in 1997, many predicted that amalgamating the six municipalities in Metro Toronto into one big city would substantially reduce local democracy.

Toronto City Council tried to rectify this problem by creating 44 wards to give people a sense that they had some status in the big city, but Premier Doug Ford overruled that with his 25 ward system in 2018. Wards are so large that councillors are unable to attend all of the community meetings to which they are invited. Size really does matter.

Adding to the size question is the fact that the city consists of two different and often competing elements: the mixed-use, dense, compact central city and the low-density, separated-use suburbs built after 1950. These two landforms have different interests and values, whether it is public transit, street life, sense of community or notions of the role of public services and government.

The example of homelessness is a key example. Homelessness is a big problem in the central city, less so in the suburbs, and residents of each area take different positions on its seriousness and how much energy and money the city should spend addressing the problem.

Policies which are popular in one part of the city are unpopular in the other. Candidates often must pull their punches, when talking about policy, to not offend one group. The success of John Tory as mayor was that he had a way of being soft on all the big issues so few got offended at what he said.

Another problem is that candidates have trouble getting their message across. Television and radio ads are simply too expensive for most candidates. Trying to get election pamphlets into the hands of all voters is impossible.

So candidates must rely on the media. Newspapers are challenged by revenue shortfalls, which means there are fewer reporters than in previous years and newspapers are much smaller, making reporters compete for space. Television and radio face the same problems.

Broad brush strokes are the best one can hope for, and that doesn't create any excitement in the election.

Oh, I almost forgot. Premier Doug Ford will interfere with any good change that would strengthen the city. He's got the power to do that, and he will use it to limit and destroy local democracy if our new mayor tries to do something helpful. People know that.

All in all, there are substantial reasons why voter interest is so low. Nevertheless, to show our belief in the city and local democracy, we have no choice but to vote on June 26.

John Sewell is part of a group supporting mayoral candidate Josh Matlow.

JOHN SEWELL is a former mayor of Toronto and the author of several books.

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Dog attacks boy in midtown schooyard

The school where the attack occurred

A boy was seriously injured after an off-leash dog attacked him at Rawlinson Community School.

The incident occurred May 12 at around 6 p.m.

It is just one of several attacks from off-leash dogs in the schoolyard outside of school hours that range from "mild to very severe in nature," according to a letter sent to parents in the community from the school's principal, Lorelei Eccleston.

"I understand there are community members regularly allowing their dogs off leash in our schoolyard on evenings and weekends, which poses a potential threat to children and adults alike," Eccleston said.

"I would like to urge all families to exercise extreme caution when in the vicinity of the schoolyard outside of school hours."

Eccleston said that some of the incidents have been reported to police and Toronto Animal Services, and they are investigating as needed.

Toronto District School Board (TDSB) trustee Alexis Dawson said via social media that the attack on the boy was "vicious" and landed the student in the hospital.

"No dogs on TDSB property, especially off leash!" she tweeted.

"We're exploring options for more dog off-leash areas, but we need our kids to be safe."

Local councillor Alejandra Bravo tweeted that letting dogs off leash in schoolyards is a "serious safety issue," and she said in a statement to Post City that she has spoken with families in the community and will explore additional enforcement options with city staff and the TDSB. It is technically illegal to have dogs off leash outside of designated areas in Toronto.

Bravo highlighted in another tweet that Davenport, where Rawlinson Community School is located, has a "real shortage of parks and green space."

"We're exploring options for more dog off-leash areas," she said. "But we need our kids to be safe. Dogs must be kept on a leash except in designated areas. My office is working with the community to support signs, flyers and education."

Eccleston suggested some safety tips in her letter, recommending to always ask for permission from the owner before approaching a dog, to avoid direct eye contact with dogs as it can be interpreted as a challenge or threat, to back away slowly if a dog is growling or showing its teeth and to avoid sudden movement. —*Eric Stober*

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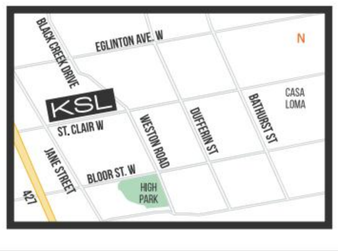

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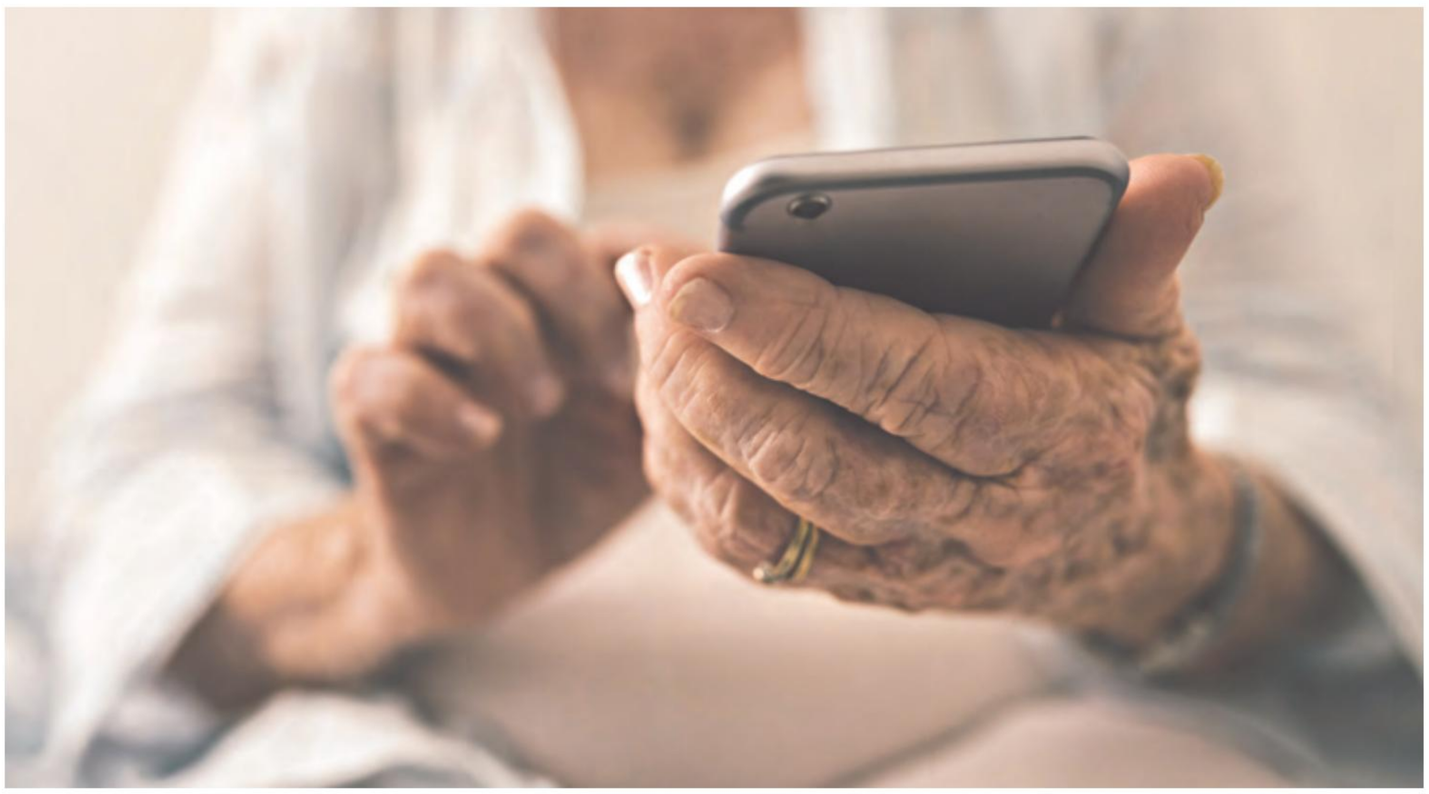

Never divulge personal or financial information to an unknown caller

Grandparent scams on rise in 905

York Regional Police Financial Crimes Unit investigators are calling on potential additional victims to come forward following the arrest of a 51-year-old man from Brampton in connection with a grandparent scam.

The investigation was initiated in March 2023 after four individuals reported falling victim to the scam, wherein they received calls soliciting money to assist a grandchild or relative allegedly in legal trouble.

Subsequently, the suspect collected the funds in person. After identifying the suspect through their probe, law enforcement took him into custody.

Authorities suspect there may be numerous other victims who have yet to report their experiences.

In an effort to gather more information, York Regional Police (YRP) has released photos of the accused and is urging anyone with relevant details or additional victims to step forward.

The accused in this case notably wore a medical mask while engaging with victims.

The suspect faces multiple charges, including fraud over $5,000, fraud under $5,000, extortion, conspiracy, possession of property obtained by crime, trafficking in property obtained by crime and laundering proceeds of crime.

YRP explained that it commends bank employees who assist in safeguarding elderly individuals by remaining vigilant regarding these types of scams and asking pertinent questions.

In another scam case, investigators from the York Regional Police Financial Crimes Unit have recently charged a 66-year-old man from Chateauguay, Quebec, in connection with an ongoing fraud investigation amounting to $46,000.

The charges stem from a series of grandparent and emergency scams that have been reported across the region since January 2023. At least six incidents have been identified involving a male suspect and a blue Toyota Yaris.

"It is very upsetting to see criminals target our seniors."

The investigation by the unit was initiated in response to reports of grandparent scams. In these scams, YRP explained that criminals posing as distressed grandchildren contact elderly individuals, often over the phone, and request immediate financial assistance to resolve fabricated emergencies. To add an air of legitimacy, additional suspects may pose as government officials, police officers or lawyers, providing instructions on how the victim can deliver the requested funds.

Through their investigation, officers were able to identify the suspect involved in these fraudulent activities.

On April 27, the suspect was charged with several offences related to the scams. The charges include fraud over $5,000 (six counts), extortion (six counts) and possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000 (six counts).

"Unfortunately this scam remains very common. It is very upsetting to see criminals targeting our seniors," said YRP police constable Laura Nicolle. "Often the victims are elderly and vulnerable and are being preyed on for the fact that most of them won't hesitate when it comes to helping a family member in trouble. This is why we are so aggressive in our efforts around education to our citizens and the enforcement side when it comes to investigating these crimes and arresting and charging those responsible."

YRP said people should never divulge personal or financial information to an unknown caller.

To raise awareness about grandparent scams and protect the community from falling victim to similar schemes, the YRP provides a list of ongoing scams, including grandparent scam and offers valuable tips at yrp.ca/fraud. —*Ron Johnson*

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Rendering of building under construction at Yonge and Lawrence

Uptown condo will take up entire block

Construction of a large new condominium is underway and taking up almost an entire block of Yonge Street north of Lawrence Avenue.

The proposal at 3180–3202 Yonge St. was approved by the City of Toronto after a deal was struck with the developer, which included dropping the number of storeys from 12 to 11.

The site was home to a number of well-known stores and restaurants, including the long-running Italian eatery Parmigiano, which relocated to Danforth Avenue.

The development will take up almost the entire city block between Bedford Park and Woburn Avenue, excluding the TD bank that is on the south end. When the project was first proposed a few years ago, the Bedford Park Residents Organization (BPRO) was against the development, due to concerns over shadowing, traffic, overlook and density in the neighbourhood.

BPRO president Ted Butler added that the developer, NYX Capital, had not reached out to residents before its application and was not being co-operative, but that changed as the application moved through city channels.

"We discussed their concerns and expect to connect with them again later in the year," NYX Capital's CEO Yashar Fatehi said in a statement in 2021.

What works in the developer's favour for rezoning is the proximity to Lawrence subway station, since the province amended the city's Midtown in Focus plan to allow for greater densification around transit stations — without any consultation from the city.

But residents are still concerned that their quiet neighbourhoods are being eyed to become the next Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue, which is seeing some of the most intense building activity in the city.

"They feel they have a right to start converting Yonge and Lawrence to Yonge and Eglinton," Butler said of the developer.

Given the city's housing crisis, and the new Ontario Bill 23, there could be much more development on the way. A look at the city's development portal, however, shows a spike in applications around the intersection of Yonge and Lawrence has yet to occur.

—Ron Johnson

TORONTO BREAK-INS

WHEN	WHERE	TIME OF DAY
MAY 1	YONGE ST. AND DELISLE AVE.	5 A.M.
	BLOOR ST. AND YONGE ST.	5 P.M.
	PRICE ST. AND SCRIVENER SQ.	11 P.M.
MAY 2	HIGHLAND AVE. AND BINSCARTH RD.	3 A.M.
	DUPONT ST. AND MADISON AVE.	6 A.M.
	ORCHARD VIEW BLVD. AND DUPLEX AVE.	5 P.M.
MAY 3	AVENUE RD. AND ST. GERMAIN AVE.	1 A.M.
	YONGE ST. AND MERTON ST.	5 A.M.
	GLEN CAMERON RD. AND WILLOWDALE BLVD.	6 P.M.
	EGLINTON AVE. E. AND DONLEA DR.	7 P.M.
	HOLMES AVE. AND DUDLEY AVE.	9 P.M.
MAY 4	FAIRLAWN AVE. AND GREER RD.	2 A.M.
	YONGE ST. AND CUMBERLAND ST.	6 A.M.
	DUFFERIN ST. AND MONEYPENNY PL.	9 A.M.
	BLYTHWOOD RD. AND RIDGEFIELD RD.	10 P.M.
MAY 5	YONGE ST. AND FRICHOT AVE.	4 A.M.
	WILLOWDALE AVE. AND HILLCREST AVE.	9 A.M.
	HEATH ST. W. AND RUSSELL HILL RD.	4 P.M.
	HOLMES AVE. AND KENNETH AVE.	9 P.M.
	BAYVIEW AVE. AND KILGOUR RD.	11 P.M.
	CRICKLEWOOD CRES. AND INVERLOCHY BLVD.	12 P.M.
MAY 6	YONGE ST. AND BOGERT AVE.	4 P.M.
	SPADINA RD. AND ARDWOLD GATE	8 P.M.
MAY 7	PLEASANT BLVD. AND AVOCA AVE.	3 A.M.
MAY 8	SHEPPARD AVE. W. AND HOVE ST.	2 A.M.
	BRAESIDE RD. AND BRAESIDE CRES.	3 A.M.
	WILSON AVE. AND BILLY BISHOP WAY	3 A.M.
	BATHURST ST. AND STORMONT AVE.	4 A.M.
	COVINGTON RD. AND SARANAC BLVD.	4 A.M.
MAY 9	EGLINTON AVE. W. AND HENNING AVE.	10 P.M.
MAY 10	HEATH ST. W. AND PARKWOOD AVE.	1 A.M.
	STEELES AVE. E. AND BAYVIEW AVE.	3 A.M.
	YONGE ST. AND ROXBOROUGH ST. W.	4 A.M.
MAY 11	SHEPPARD AVE. W. AND WILMINGTON AVE.	4 P.M.
MAY 12	YONGE ST. AND KEMPFORD BLVD.	12 A.M.
MAY 13	BATHURST ST. AND YORK DOWNS DR.	4 A.M.
MAY 16	ROEHAMPTON AVE. AND REDPATH AVE.	3 A.M.
	FAIRMEADOW AVE. AND LORD SEATON RD.	10 A.M.
MAY 17	GODDARD ST. AND PANNAHILL RD.	12 A.M.
MAY 18	JOHN ST. AND PORTERFIELD CRES.	2 A.M.

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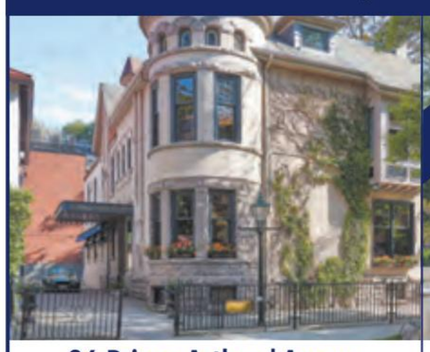

36 Prince Arthur | Annex
$11,900,000 | 10 Parking Spots

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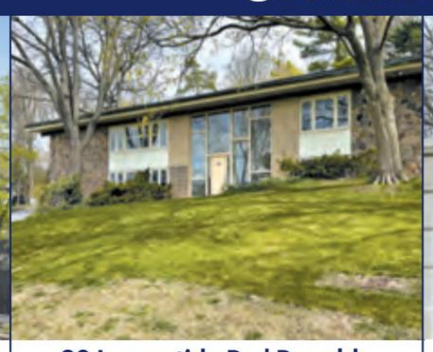
46 Teddington Park Ave.
Lawrence Park | $12,200,000

Built upon the architecture of luxury, this isn't just a home, it's an expression of perfection in its purest form. Crafted from the finest materials from around the world, where even the most minute details were obsessed over. 5 + 2 Bedrooms, 9 Baths.

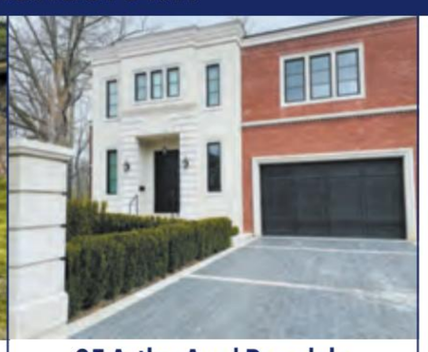
60 South Dr. | Rosedale | 2.5 Baths
3 Bedrooms | $3,299,900

'Haute Couture' - Rosedale townhome with rare 40' frontage - Dynamic reno seamlessly blends indoor/outdoor spaces, ideal for 'al fresco' dining with outdoor fireplace. Glamorous kitchen in light-filled open plan main floor. Lovely 2nd floor bedrooms.



93 Laurentide Dr. | Donalda
$3,199,000 | 6 bedrooms

Substantial mid-century modern on impressive lot. Set among mature trees with beautiful views in every direction. A Split level plan set into the hillside gives privacy. 5 bath-room, generous kitchen and large living spaces for easy entertaining. Ample parking + 2 car garage.



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L-R: The Bank of Canada, CIBC deputy chief economist Benjamin Tal

Toronto's housing correction is officially over

Experts are saying Toronto's housing correction is over, with prices and home sales rising month-over-month back-to-back for the first time since 2022. CIBC's deputy chief economist Benjamin Tal gives us the scoop on where the market is headed this summer.

Is the housing correction over?

Yes, but we have to remember that the main reason why the market is stabilizing is the lack of supply. People are not listing — it's not that the demand is back to normal. The market is turning into a seller's market, especially for relatively cheap units — in the GTA, we're talking about something between $800,000 to $1.1 million.

What changed from four months ago?

Well, nothing! Back then there was no supply, now there is no supply. It seems that demand is a bit stronger for more affordable units, especially after the Bank of Canada signaled they are not going to raise interest rates. Unfortunately, the Consumer Price Index numbers are not behaving, the inflation numbers are not behaving, and the Bank of Canada might move again in July. That will actually send a wave of uncertainty into the market that might slow down activity over the next few months.

What about mortgage rates?

The speculation regarding the Bank of Canada is not ending. It's hurting the five-year rate and leading to higher mortgage rates that will introduce some softening of the market, no question about it. So it's not going to be a linear trajectory. There are some factors that will ease or slow down recovery.

If you look at the distribution of mortgages, the vast majority of people are now taking one- and two-year mortgages, as opposed to five-year variable ones. That's something I've never seen before. I think people realize that interest rates will start falling in 2024, and they're buying time taking one or two years, although it's expensive, and then will ride the rest of the way down.

What's coming for the months ahead?

The rate of improvement will slow down over the next few months. I think that, quite frankly, the housing market is stabilizing too fast. The fact that the market is stabilizing with these interest rates after such a significant increase is telling us how tight the market is, right? It's not just that there's demand and everyone's willing to buy now. It's that there's no supply, and that's protecting prices.

The 905 is making up for lost time

Things are looking up for the 905. After a steep decline in home sales and prices thanks to multiple interest rate hikes and the end of the pandemic boom, the May report from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board saw an increase in the average home price in Vaughan — and it may only be up from here.

The average home price reached $1,369,460 in April, a 2.1 per cent increase from an average of $1,340,955 in March. Notably, sales volume in Vaughan has almost tripled since January of this year.

Odeen Eccleston, broker of record at WE Realty Inc. who operates in the 905 region, says she's seen more activity in the region over the past few months. "We're seeing bidding wars, multiple offers — it's reminiscent of the high times."

In February, a townhouse just outside Thornhill made headlines after attracting 11 bids before selling at $1.37 million. And while that was an outlier at the time, Eccleston said bidding wars for those types of "starter" homes is common now.

Eccleston says this is a direct effect of affordability, and the aftereffects of the pandemic market. "The 905 has become as coveted as Toronto in some respects. When prices skyrocketed here during the pandemic, people were willing to buy outside it [the 905], thinking they wouldn't have to commute into work," she said. "Now that they do, with prices dropping over the past year, the 905 is the sweet spot in between."

With movement in the market, she advises sellers to sell first. "It's safer to do that, so you know exactly what kind of capital you're working with," she said.

—Julia Mastroianni

BY THE NUMBERS

27

The percentage that home resales in Toronto jumped month-over-month in April, according to an RBC report.

$1,153,269

The average selling price of a home in the GTA in April — up 4 per cent from the average price in March.

6.5

The month-over-month per cent increase in new listings in Toronto in April, according to RBC.

78

The sales-to-new listings ratio in Toronto in April, compared to a 70 per cent ratio across Canada, according to RBC.

7,531

The number of sales in April in the GTA, compared to 6,896 in March.

11,364

The number of new listings in April in the GTA, compared to 18,416 in April 2022.

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Diana Bacon is still searching for the words to describe her cousin, Caroline Shawyer, a woman who was both bursting with energy and effortlessly calm; someone who was an active member of her community, but also very private.

When Caroline passed away in 2020 at the age of 81, she left a very generous Legacy gift to support Sinai Health's most critical needs. While Diana doesn't know for certain what motivated Caroline's giving, she's not surprised Caroline kept her philanthropy to herself. She lived her life with compassion and generosity, but in a quiet and unassuming way.

"She just wanted to do things and make a difference," explains Diana.

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L-R: The Pink Floyd Exhibition hits Toronto, supergroup Boygenius is the hottest band on the planet

Pink Floyd, Boygenius and three huge festivals this month

ARTS 1. Go to Luminato

Immerse yourself in the vibrant Luminato Festival in Toronto, a captivating celebration of arts and culture. Known as an "arts festival that knows no bounds," this multidisciplinary and diverse event brings together talented artists, performers and thinkers from around the world to showcase their creativity and push the limits of artistic expression. Plan to be captivated by a remarkable lineup of theatre, dance and opera. This year's festival will feature two world premieres, offering a fresh and innovative perspective. Prepare also to be enchanted by a seldom seen opera presented in a whole new light, and be ready for the revival of a seminal dance work that will leave you in awe. You won't want to miss highlights like Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha, Dragon's Tale* and *Aalaapi*. The festival runs from June 7 to 18.

MUSIC 2. See Boygenius

Indie rock supergroup Boygenius is set to grace the stage in Toronto on June 21, accompanied by the legendary Broken Social Scene. This highly anticipated concert will bring together the musical talents of Phoebe Bridgers, Lucy Dacus and Julien Baker, delivering a mesmerizing performance that showcases their collaborative genius. Fans can expect an unforgettable night of music as Boygenius captivates the audience with its introspective and poignant melodies. Don't miss this chance to catch one of the hottest bands on the planet for a rare local show.

ARTS 3. Visit the Pink Floyd Exhibition

The highly anticipated Pink Floyd exhibition, Their Mortal Remains, is set to arrive in Toronto on June 16. Led by renowned Toronto music promoter Michael Cohl and creative director Aubrey 'Po' Powell, the immersive showcase will unveil Pink Floyd's extraordinary five-decade legacy and the band's profound impact on art and culture. With the collaboration of Stufish designers, the exhibition delves into the mesmerizing universe of Pink Floyd, taking visitors on a chronological journey through the band's history, connecting with the music, art, design, sound technology and live performances. The exhibition holds special significance in Toronto, where Pink Floyd has strong ties, including the sold-out 1987 shows. The exhibition will run from June 16, opening its doors on Tuesday to Sunday at the Better Living Centre.

MUSIC 4. Go to Toronto Jazz Festival

Get ready for the Toronto Jazz Festival, a musical carnival that celebrates the soulful sounds of jazz. From intimate clubs to bustling outdoor stages, this festival brings together talented musicians and enthusiasts for an unforgettable experience. Get lost in the smooth melodies and improvisations performed by world-class artists, including Ashanti, Jully Black, Herbie Hancock, Melody Gardot and more. Join the celebration, savour delicious bites from food vendors, and connect with fellow music lovers in a city transformed by jazzy rhythms and melodies. The festival runs from June 23 to July 2.

THEATRE 5. See No Save Points

No Save Points is a unique and immersive theatrical experience that combines gaming technology with personal storytelling. Created and starring Sébastien Heins, the show explores the use of fantastical gamified worlds as a means of escape and of processing difficult news, drawing from Heins's own experience with his mother's diagnosis of Huntington's disease. The audience becomes active participants, controlling Heins's performance through motion capture and haptic technology. Directed by Mitchell Cushman, *No Save Points* bridges the worlds of video games, theatre and memoir to delve into the question of how we spend our time. The show will take place at Lighthouse ArtSpace in Toronto from June 6 to 25.

MUSIC 6. Go to North by Northeast

From June 13 to 18, live music venues will erupt with incredible performances, delivering a feast of fresh and exciting sounds at the North by Northeast music festival. With over 20 venues participating, immerse yourself in a vibrant atmosphere where great new music takes centre stage. This year's lineup includes performances from local and international artists, as well as food trucks, art installations and more.

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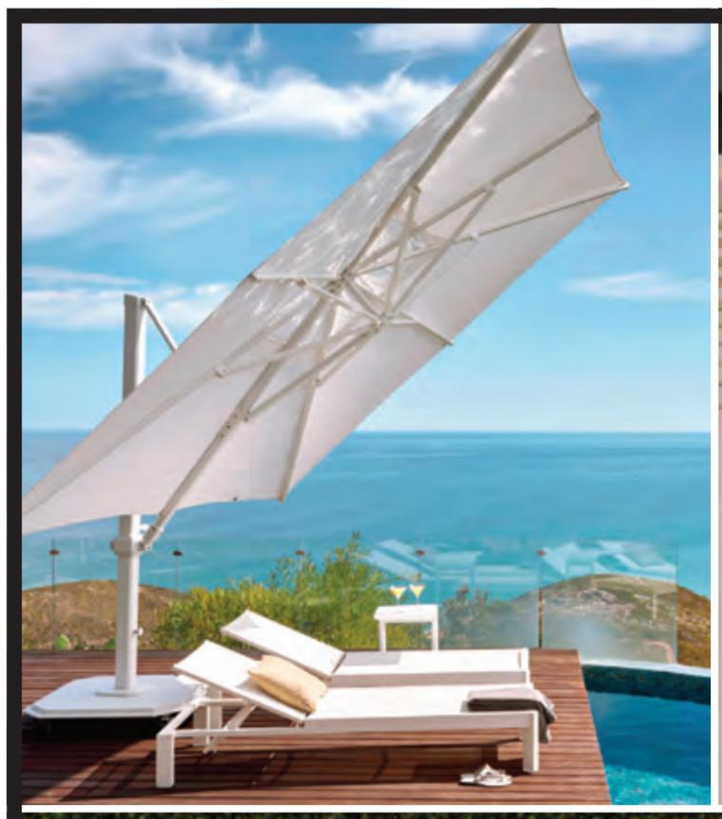

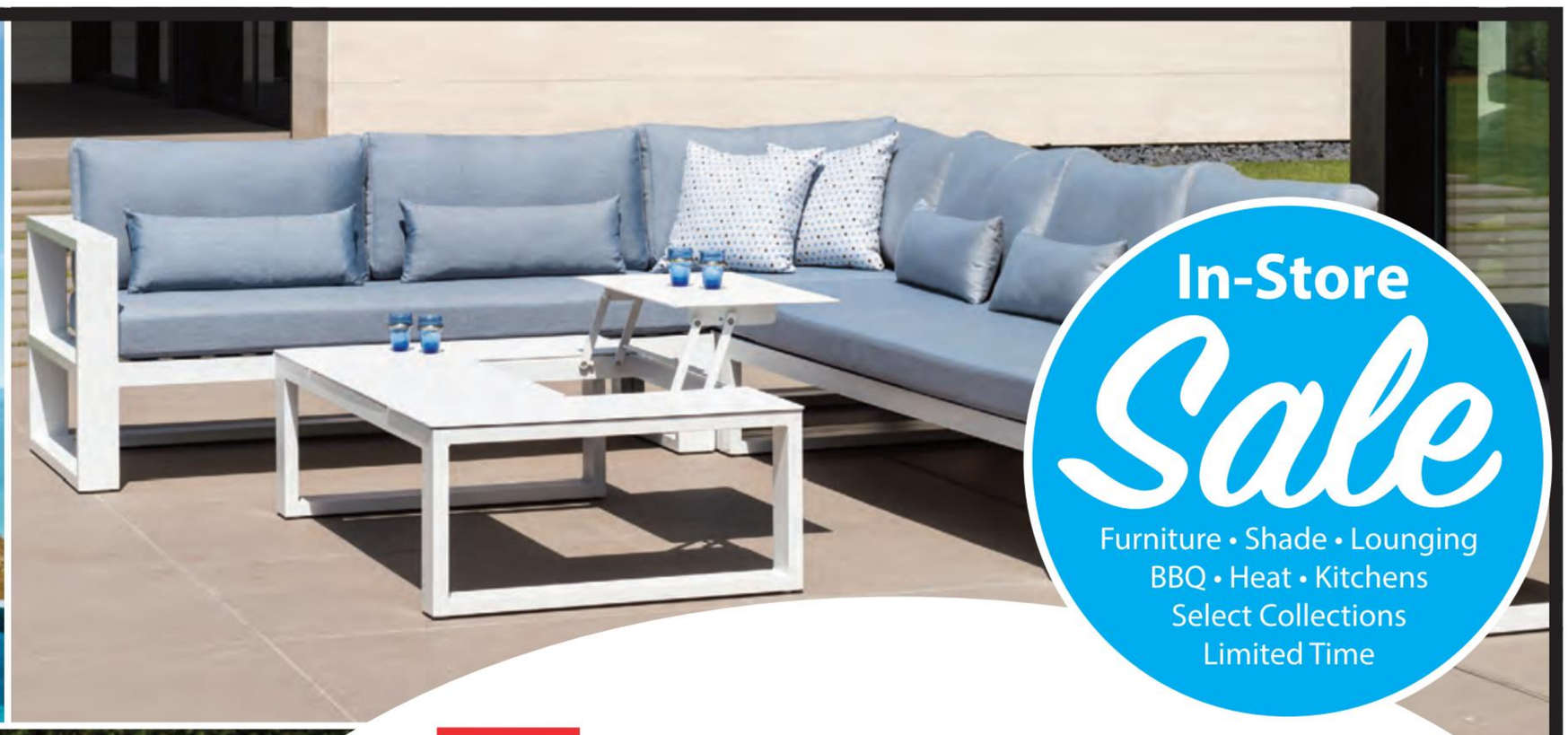

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SUMMER'S HOTTEST TREND, SEINFELD COUTURE

Give your dad the gift of a new style and a dose of nostalgia for Father's Day with the latest trend for men — Jerry Seinfeld fashion. Jeanne Beker pairs button downs with baggy jeans and '90s-approved sneakers to give Dad the whole look.

STRIPED STATEMENT

18 Waits, $230, 990 Queen St. W.

"This is a very classic shirt. You could certainly wear it with a pair of jeans or bring it up a notch with a classic grey suit. Stripes are very groovy these days."

SUCKER FOR SEERSUCKER

Outclass, $220, 343 Roncesvalles Ave.

"Lavender is a colour that came on strong last year and is bigger than ever now. I really like the seersucker texture of this shirt. Obviously it's great with denim."

RED-Y TO GO

Klaxon Howl, $198, 1473 Queen St. W.

"Everyone's talking about a pop of colour, and this is one that your dad probably doesn't have. It would look fantastic with a pair of black jeans."

BACK TO BLACK

Blue Button Shop, $509, 1499 Dundas St. W.

"It's always great to have a pair of black jeans. These ones have that relaxed fit. I think they're very hip, and Dad might appreciate the comfort level of them."

SKATER MAN

Levi's, $118, 1 Bass Pro Mills Dr.

"Everyone loves a classic Levi's pair, and they have a current feel to them because they're baggy. They look perfectly faded, perfect for summer."

DON'T DITCH THE DARK WASH

TNT, $268, 2901 Bayview Ave.

"These look like a no-nonsense jean, so classic. They're the kind of jean that you could wear forever, and it's great to have a dark wash jean in rotation."

FOR THE NIKE AIR-HEAD

Kenshi, $160, 384 Yonge St.

FOR THE ANIMAL LOVER

Gravity Pope, $220, 1010 Queen St. W.

FOR THE TRENDSETTER

Get Outside, $124.99, 437 Queen St. W.

FOR THE CLASSIC DRESSER

L'intervalle, $179.99, 220 Yonge St.

FOR THE PREPPIE

Browns, $129.98, 1 Bass Pro Mills Dr.

FOR THE VINTAGE-OBSESSED

New Balance, $149.99, 1234 Yonge St.

Jeanne Beker | One of Canada's most trusted authorities on fashion, now watch her on TSC or tune in to her new podcast Beyond Style Matters.

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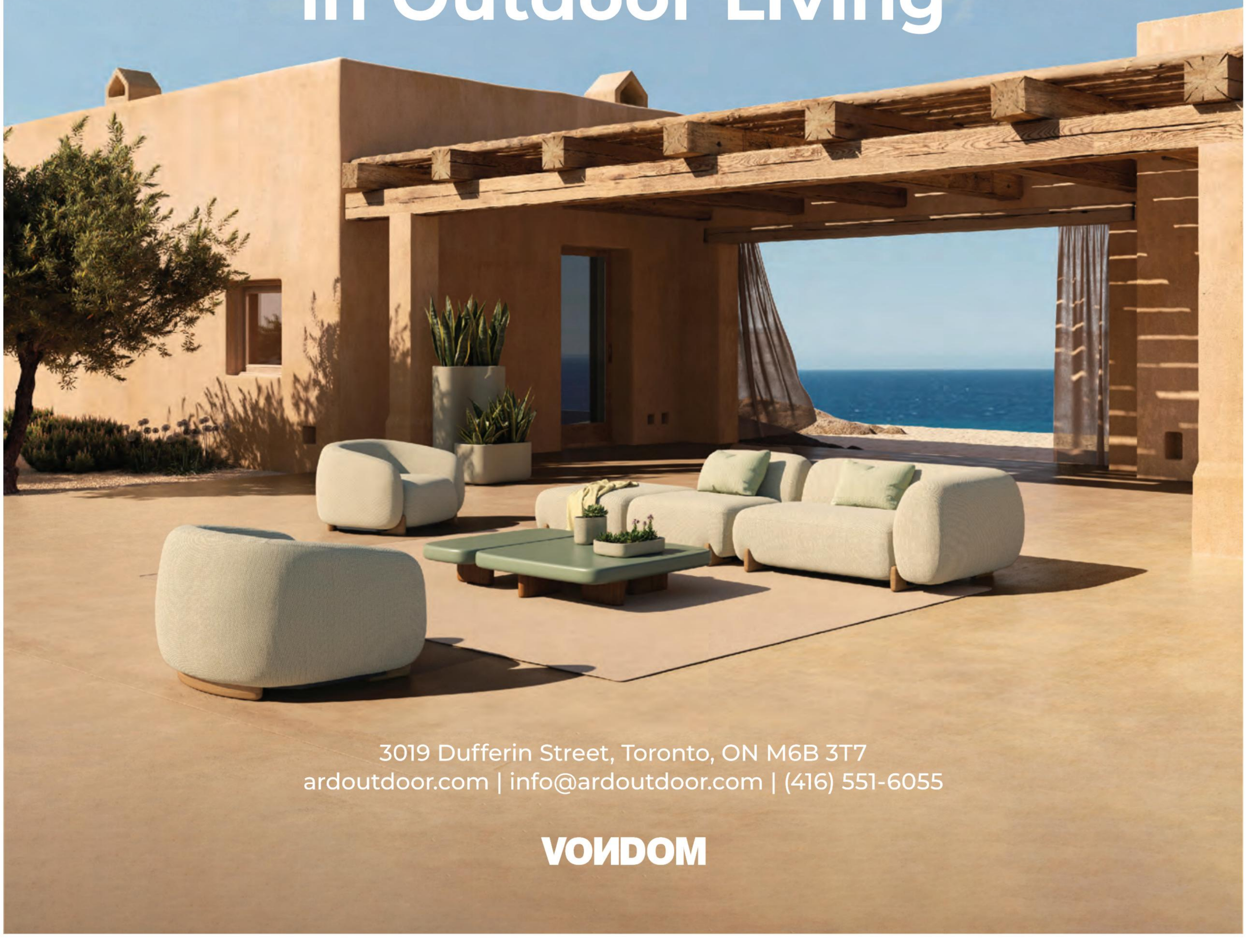

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VONDOM

L-R: Veronica Beard, Psycho Bunny

American fashion rolls into T.O.

There's just something about Toronto! With a thriving fashion scene and street style galore, lately, the city has been attracting some new designers hoping to get in on the action — of the American variety.

From athleisure wear to classic staples and jewelry, this invasion of American brands has captivated fashion enthusiasts and trendsetters, who have eagerly embraced the influx of new styles from across the border.

Leading the charge are renowned names such as Veronica Beard, Reformation, Psycho Bunny, Alo Yoga and Lafayette 148 — with a few choosing Toronto for their first international outpost.

But what is driving these brands to consider Toronto one place to call home? Liza Amlani, the co-founder of Retail Strategy Group, points to a few key factors.

"Across social and digital commerce, the data is showing us that Canadians are shopping across American brands, and their products are being shipped to Canada," she says. "It's clear Canadians have a desire to shop for products that they don't find here [in the US]."

Amlani adds that the COVID-19 pandemic also played a role in the rise of American brands in Toronto. The significant increase in online shopping over the past few years gave Canadians greater access to brands that were previously out of reach.

Stephanie Unwin, president of New York City–based luxury brand Veronica Beard, which opened in Yorkville recently, also acknowledges this shift.

"As American retailers have gained more access to data from their e-commerce businesses, they have recognized the demand coming from the north and prioritized their Canadian expansion as a result," says Unwin.

She also notes that the Toronto customer is discerning and craves options. According to her, and based on the data, if Canadians can't find what they're looking for locally, they turn to online shopping or head south of the border.

"We realized that there was not only customer demand, but also excellent brand resonance and loyalty," she says.

As an ex-Torontonian herself, Unwin knows first-hand how Toronto's budding arts, music and food scene — along with its strong sense of community and diversity — would make it a great place to house the brand's flagship Canadian store.

Of course, some may have doubts about the success of American brands in Canada, especially with the closures of retail giants like Nordstrom and Target. However, with even more brands set to expand into Canada — like John Elliott — there truly is an appetite for fashion from the south.

—Jemicah Colleen Marasigan

Dress to the max this summer

Maxi skirts have been trending all year, but it's their time to shine this summer. Here are four places to shop the trend in Toronto.

Tusk

This Queen West boutique is in full summer mode. Our maxi favourites include a patchwork wrap skirt that can also be worn as a midi or a dress, and a tiered pink plaid skirt that has a matching top if you want the whole look. 888 Queen St. W.

Thursdays

This Rosedale boutique currently has an on-trend cargo skirt for sale, a poplin skirt in black or white for optimal styling, and a textured, crinkly one to throw over a swimsuit. 1130 Yonge St.

Siberia Vintage

Visit this vintage shop for some '60s and '70s ultra high-waisted maxi skirts that will pair nicely with a crop top. We spotted a gingham one in the shop, plus a sturdy tartan one to try the grunge look. 955 Bloor St. W.

119 Corbo

If money is no object, 119 Corbo houses a dreamy maxi collection that includes a few sheer Dries Van Noten designs, a beach-ready Ann Demeulemeester wrap skirt and denim maxis with a twist. 119 Yorkville Ave.

Four sizzling summer trends in the city

Jorts

Forget short shorts! Torontonians are embracing knee-length denim this summer, a.k.a. "jorts." Fashion folks are wearing them with graphic Ts, tanks and crop tops, ethereal tops and even with dresses overtop. Try Lost Boys Vintage in Kensington Market or Black Market on Queen West to find yours — or chop the legs off an old pair of jeans and voila.

More bows

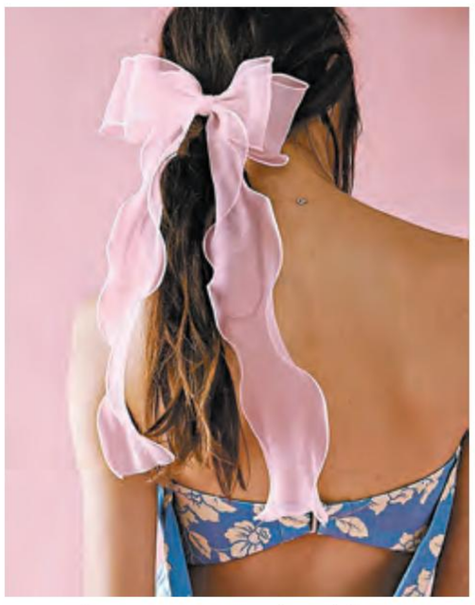
This dainty DIY embellishment can be worn as a hair accessory or jewelry, tied through your waist belt, your overalls, around the handle of a purse or sewn right onto your clothes. Popular materials include silk and yarn.

Sheer everything

A transparent layer over bare skin is a dream when the sun is out. Lace skirts and slips have been a favourite for Torontonians. Maya Wohlfahrt, a vintage curator in Toronto, likes to layer hers under a super grunge graphic T. Shop the trend at 100% Silk Shop on Dupont Street or Chosen Vintage on Dundas West.

High-contrast looks

Wohlfahrt advises that making an outfit go from "nice" to "OMFG" is all in the art of unexpected combinations — such as mixing masculine and feminine styles in unique ways with a tiny corset and soccer shorts. Try pairings such as kitten heels with socks or baseball hats and dresses — this summer is all about self-expression.



Bows are popular this season

5 achievable ways to stop climate change

Wind and solar power can cut eight billion tonnes of emissions

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions to keep the world from heating to catastrophic levels is entirely possible and would save money. Although emissions continue to rise, there's still time to reverse course.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report includes a chart compiled by the world's top scientists that shows how.

The good

1. Wind and solar together can cut eight billion tonnes of emissions annually — "equivalent to the combined emissions of the US and European Union today" and "at lower cost than just continuing with today's electricity systems," the Guardian reports.

2. Making buildings, industry, lighting and appliances more energy efficient could cut 4.5 billion tonnes of emissions a year by 2030.

3. Because forests, wetlands and other green spaces sequester carbon, stopping deforestation could cut four billion tonnes a year by 2030.

4. Cutting methane emissions, especially those that leak from fossil fuel operations, could cut three billion tonnes. It also shows that fracking for fossil gas and production of so-called "liquefied natural gas" are not viable solutions.

5. Other ways to lower emissions include switching to sustainable diets, such as eating less meat (1.7 billion tonnes), shifting toward public transit and active transportation (which has more potential than electric cars) and better agricultural methods.

The not-so-good

Nuclear power and carbon capture and storage each deliver only 10 per cent of the results of wind and solar at far higher costs. It's telling that those pathways are the ones touted most often by government, industry and media people resistant to greater energy independence.

Although electric cars are far better than fossil-fuelled cars, all personal vehicles waste resources, require massive infrastructure and are not efficient at moving people around.

The problem isn't a shortage of solutions or exorbitant costs or any benefits of fossil fuels over renewable energy; it's a lack of political will and, to some extent, public support. Nature is speaking, and science is confirming that we have no time to lose. We can't afford not to change.

DAVID SUZUKI with files from Ian Hanington.

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DEAR SANGITA

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Dear Sangita: ***My kid is in high school and has a boyfriend I am frankly not a fan of. Nothing horrible. I can just tell he's not a good fit for her: He's not attentive. He talks over her, is condescending and speaks very rudely about his own parents in a way I worry will rub off on her. Do I say something? Hope she realizes it on her own?***

—Begging for a break-up

Dear Begging: I have a teenager right now, a younger daughter who is 13. One of the things I started doing with them, even when they were little at the age of two, if something went wrong or there was something questionable, I would put it in their court. I would say to them, what do you think of the situation? What are your thoughts about what's going on? So as a mother, you wouldn't say, "This guy's not great for you." It's more like, "How did you feel when he said this to you? How did it make you feel?" That starts the conversation on their side, right? It makes them realize they have ownership of the situation. I'm never going to go to my kids and say, "I think this is wrong." It's more like, "Why do you think this is questionable? Why do you think we need to sit down and talk about this?

My little one, when she was only about two or three years old, she said, "Well, Mom, I need to give myself a time out." And she would go sit in the corner by herself and think through it. It works like a charm. I do that now, to this day. And they have ownership of it. So I'm sure this girl knows how rude this boy is being to her, how condescending. Every girl has their instincts; you know how you feel. So as a mother, I think it's important that you don't just say, "This is wrong." It's more of asking, "Why do you think this might be wrong?"

It is important to understand that you have this incredible ability to speak to your kids. You have the ability to communicate — I don't talk like this with my kids every day, but you know, when we do talk, there's that power of communication that we built.

Now, you can't control what he's going to say about his parents; he's allowed to do that. It sounds like you're worried about the boyfriend, but you're also worried about how it's going to reflect on you. As a parent, you just need to worry about how your kids are doing. You just want to get to the bottom of the issue. And that issue is the way her boyfriend treats her and acknowledging that it's not right. It sounds like you've watched him talk to your daughter this way, and if that's the case, she knows you've seen it already. I have a feeling she's probably brushing it off, saying he's just that kind of guy. But if you put it in her court to acknowledge it, I think you'll get a surprising reaction from your daughter.

Dear Sangita: ***How would you deal with your husband not listening to your advice, but he'll listen to his sisters?***

—Ignored and annoyed

Dear Ignored: This is a tough one. This is about breaking old habits. He's been with his sisters since they were younger. And maybe there was a lot of trust between them, and he listens to his sisters. Maybe the question is who gives better advice on the given topic? Maybe his sisters give him better advice. Maybe he is the great guy that he is because he has great people that he can talk to. Of course, you can't say not to listen to his sisters; clearly he's close to them. I would say, give your advice and leave it at that and let your husband actually pick what advice he wants to go with. He has this incredible relationship with his sisters, but he also has this incredible relationship with you, and maybe certain advice would be better from you or maybe some advice better from his sisters.

Though it might not feel this way, it's habit — your husband turns to his sisters because it's what he's used to. You might be feeling left out and feeling like you want your husband to turn to you. But that's not what a relationship is about. You want your husband to get the best advice. And if that comes from his sisters, maybe that's the advice he needs.

SANGITA PATEL is our new advice columnist and a television host on ET Canada

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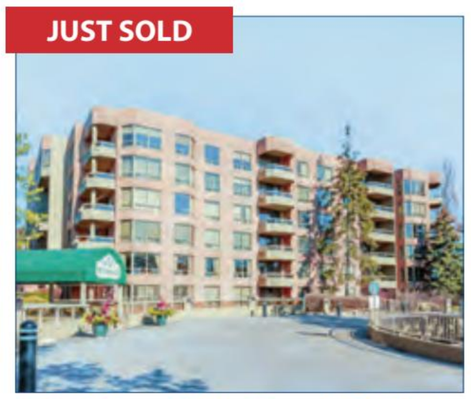

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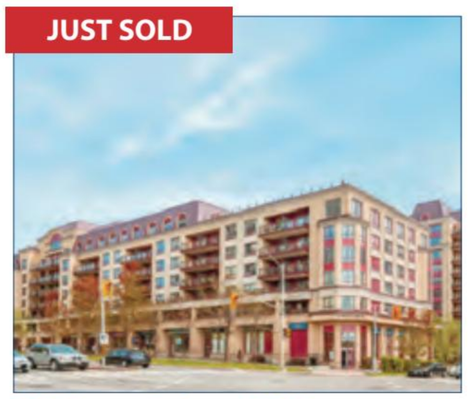

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FAST FACTS

NAME:
Daniel Adeboboye

HIGH SCHOOL:
Northern Secondary

FAVE T.O. MEMORY:
The Raptors winning the championship

FAVE T.O. ATHLETE:
Andrew Harris, Toronto Argos

FAVE PLACE IN T.O.:
Wherever his family is

Daniel Adeboboye was the Argos's third pick in the 2022 CFL draft

Childhood Argos dream becomes reality

Daniel Adeboboye is living every Toronto kid's dream: he's playing on his favourite team, alongside athletes he's looked up to since childhood. Adeboboye, who was a second round draft pick for the Toronto Argos last year, is gearing up for the 2023 CFL season to begin in June.

"My love for football really started when I saw the Argos," Adeboboye says. So when it was time for the draft pick, he was nervous waiting to hear his name get called. "Some of the teams prior to Toronto picking said if I was available they would pick me, so I was nervous that I wasn't going to get to go to Toronto."

But when the call came, it was from a Toronto number, and Adeboboye knew he had been picked to play for his home team — and his dream team.

There have been some surreal moments so far, including becoming friends with current Argos player and his longtime football idol, Andrew Harris. "Getting to play beside someone who I looked up to when I was younger is unbelievable," he says.

His journey to the Argos began in Grade 8 — with multiple Toronto high schools hoping to recruit him, Adeboboye chose Northern Secondary School, where his older brother also played football. "I had a decent amount of success in my first years. And when you really love something and are good at something, obviously you want to get paid for that," he says.

Adeboboye was sad to leave Northern after Grade 11 for a U.S. school, but he says Canadian athletes interested in getting into an NCAA Division 1 university were advised to attend a United States prep school to do so. And it worked — he got into Bryant University and, shortly after graduating, was the Argos's third pick in the 2022 CFL draft and 15th overall pick.

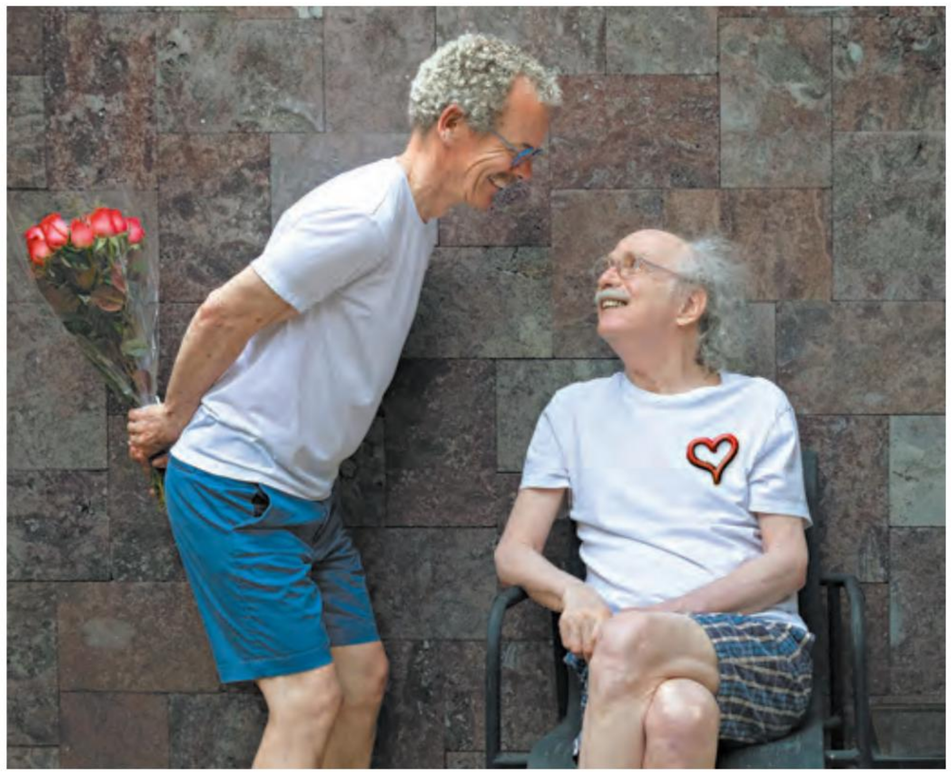
A year into playing with the Argos, Adeboboye has already made an impression — he was nominated for Most Outstanding Special Teams Player in the 2022 CFL awards.

"I told [the special teams coach], wherever I'm needed on the team, I'm going to work as hard as I possibly can," Adeboboye says.

It's a testament to the values he's been brought up on and a reflection of the very Canadian work ethic he brings with him.

"Canadian players, our way is working hard — even if we won't get recognized — because it's best for the team," he says.

Adeboboye's goal this year is to earn the chance to play a little more running back, and he says the team is looking good. "We're doing things with the mindset of being champions and are ready for success." — *Julia Mastroianni*



The pair was the first same-sex couple to legally marry in Canada

The Michaels were first: Still in love 20 years on

In 2003, Michael Leshner and Michael Stark, also known as "The Michaels," made history as the first same-sex couple to legally be married in Canada. Now, 20 years later, Michael Stark tells us the story of how they met and the secret to 42 years of happiness.

How they met

Our first meeting almost did not happen. It was the Victoria Day long weekend, May 23, 1981, and I was supposed to go see a movie with a friend. She cancelled at the last minute, and I decided to go out anyway.

I hadn't been out very long; in fact, when I got to the former gay bar Buddies's entrance, I walked around the block several times — I was so nervous and didn't want anyone to see me enter! I finally gathered up the courage to enter the bar, and the rest is history, so to speak. Michael approached me, started talking, and we have been together ever since. There was a very short-lived breakup that lasted only a few hours.

The courtship

A typical date was to meet at By the Way restaurant or a schnitzel spot along Bloor Street than a double bill at the Bloor Cinema. Michael was a huge movie buff and loved all the old classics. I was a movie novice and enjoyed soaking up all these amazing movies.

As a lawyer, assistant crown attorney and grandson of Jewish immigrant grandparents, Michael was keenly aware of discrimination and really wanted to play whatever role he could in ending legal discrimination for gays and lesbians in Canada. We attended the first Gay Pride Parade in the summer of 1981 — more a march and demonstration, as there was virtually no goodwill between the police and the gay and lesbian community.

We developed a recognizable brand to Toronto as The Michaels along with our very handsome miniature schnauzer Mikey, and then Schmikey. The final piece of the puzzle was same-sex marriage. We were asked to join a case with nine other same-sex couples in Ontario.

The proposal

The decision of the initial case for same-sex marriage was in 2002, and the court found in our favour but gave the federal government a year to amend the laws involving marriage. During the press conference Michael turned to me and asked if I would marry him. I looked at him and said yes! Quite the proposal! We arranged a wedding shower, which we celebrated with friends and family.

The marriage and honeymoon

This decision was appealed and in 2003 we won again. We had hoped for this outcome, so Michael had lined up three judges that would marry us — just in case two became incapacitated!

On the morning of June 10, 2003, we hopped on the Bay bus with our suits and wedding rings in our pockets, hoping we would be able to marry in a few hours. We went to Osgoode Hall to pick up the decision. We had won, and the judgment took effect immediately. Michael left Osgoode Hall singing, "Get Me To The Church On Time" from *My Fair Lady* — a heady moment!

We got a wedding licence at city hall, and in the early afternoon we went over to Superior Court at 361 University Ave. to get married. Because we didn't know if we would be able to marry on that day, we didn't tell any of our family or friends — they learned about it on the news!

Two months later we hosted a wonderful reception for family, friends and special supporters — a truly beautiful, emotional experience. We went to California a few weeks later for a family wedding that we added an extra week to for a honeymoon with Schmikey!

The secret to success

Communication and common core values. Being in a successful relationship requires work and effort, and when it works, it's a wonderful thing.

The future together

Our 42 years together have been an exhilarating journey. Like most couples, we have had ups and downs; fortunately the ups far outnumber the downs. We enjoy being gay "ambassadors" nowadays, spreading the word and acting as mentors and role models to our community and the greater society.

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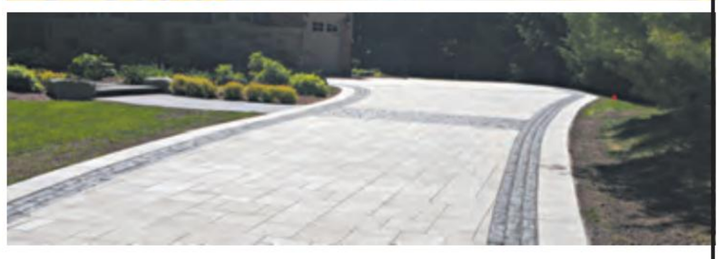

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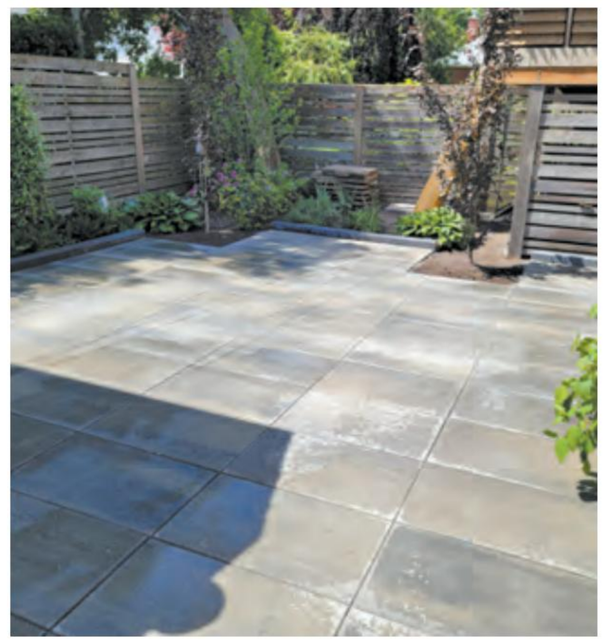

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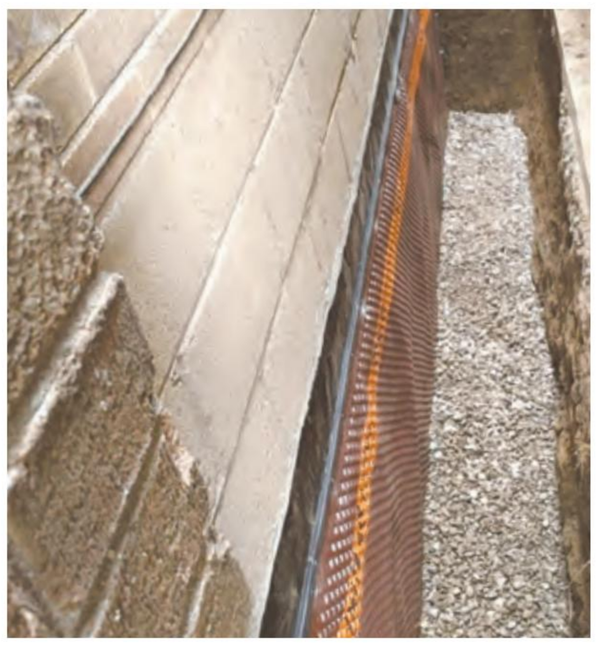

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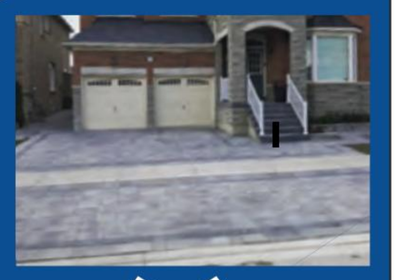

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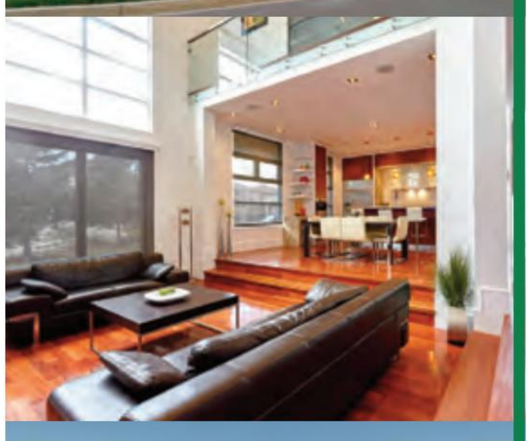

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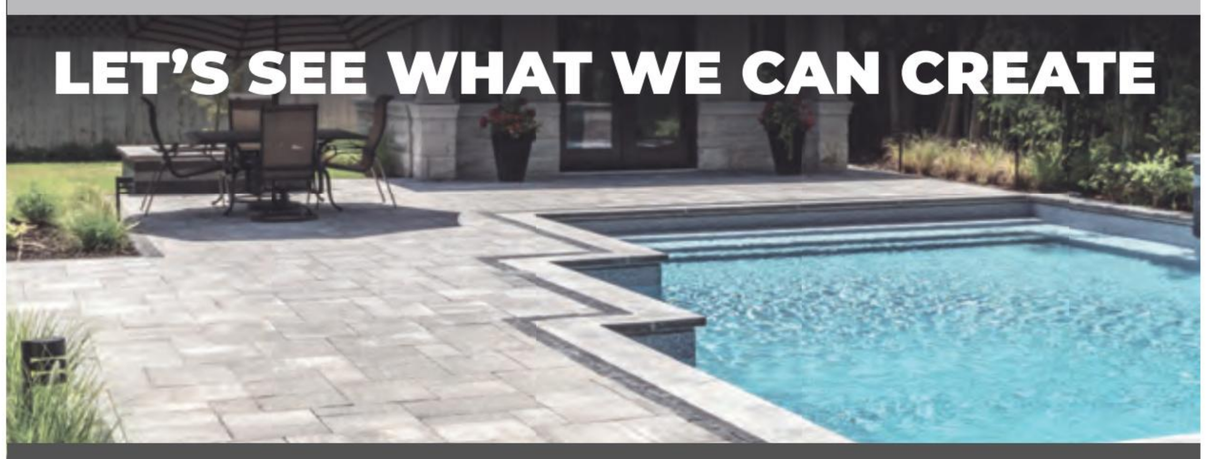

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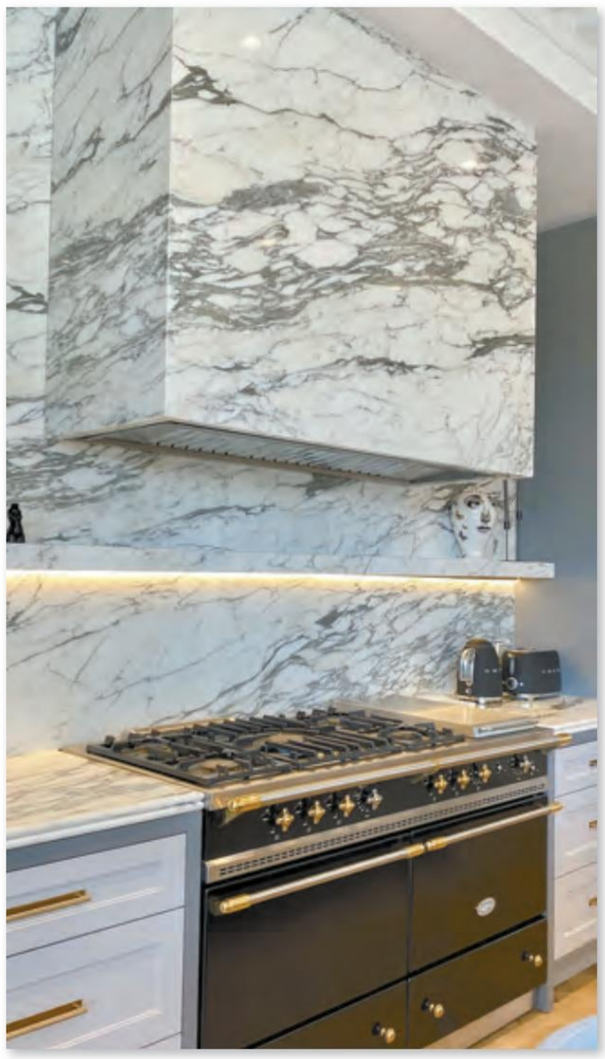

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THE RISE OF WHITE LINEN DINING

Toronto's patio scene is teeming with casual beer-sipping spots, but this summer, the spotlight shines on a different kind of alfresco experience. For your next special occasion, don your finest attire and revel in dining under the stars at Toronto's exquisite white tablecloth patios.

1

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Enjoy dining dans le soleil on the exquisite garden terrace at Auberge du Pommier. Serving outstanding French fare in North York since 1987, the food is as much the focus as the first-rate hospitality, and guests can soak up the lush floral landscape in beautiful tones of pinks, blues and reds. Constructed around the vestiges of two 1860's woodcutters' cottages, diners will quickly forget about the bustling city surrounding them. Dishes are meticulously prepared by accomplished chef Doug Penfold, and the desserts, like the milk chocolate tart, are the perfect way to cap off the night.

4150 Yonge St.

2

SORREL

Is there anything more Parisian than a street-side patio, especially one complete with a crisp white tablecloth and a bouquet of fresh flowers decorating the centre? A Rosedale gem for elegant dining, Sorrel offers guests a French-Mediterranean-inspired menu with all of the classics, like steak tartare and duck confit. The restaurant has an extensive selection of wine and numerous bottles of bubbly to toast the night away. Potted plants separate the patio from the road, and hanging bulb lights add a touch of whimsy and an enchanting ambience to the evening.

1158 Yonge St.

3

20 VICTORIA

Although the space might be tiny — just 20 seats indoors and an additional 14 on the patio — it's what makes Restaurant 20 Victoria feel both accessible and exclusively cool. Offering a full seven-plus-course set menu, opt for streetside dining under the restaurant's white open tents and tables adorned with elegant linens. The menu is spearheaded by head chef Julie Hyde and in the past has featured fanciful dishes, including sturgeon and Jerusalem artichoke. Make sure to save room for one of the glorious desserts, like the apple mousse cake or citrus meringue tart.

20 Victoria St.

4

GEORGE RESTAURANT

Nestled among a bustling section of Queen Street East, George Restaurant is situated in what was once a chocolate factory from the 1850s. Inside, the classic haunt is a touch moody and softly lit and exudes modern sophistication. The enchanting courtyard sets the stage for both intimate meals and festive gatherings, complete with a canopy of twinkling lights. Upscale yet approachable, Chef Lorenzo Losetto is narrowly focused on seasonally sourced ingredients, including his very own artisanal gelato in decadent flavours like amarena cherry, perfect for enjoying alfresco.

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The best gift you can give your dad on Father's Day is an incredible meal, so this month, chef Anthony Rose helps us kick off patio season by grilling and tasting the ultimate summer banger — sausage. Which is the city's best and which is the wurst? Read on to find out.

HAM, LEEK & GRUYERE
"You can taste the Gruyère right away! I'm not a huge fan of Gruyère, but it's nice here. This is a well-made sausage, and it has a good amount of fat. I'm not really seeing or tasting much leek, though." *Cumbrae's, 1589 Bayview Ave., $12.99/ lb.*

WINNER

MAPLE SYRUP & CHINESE 5 SPICE
"Cool combo! Not overpowering on maple syrup or Chinese five spice. It reminds me of a pork belly fried rice we used to do at Rose and Sons, so it's very nostalgic." *Sanagan's Meat Locker, 176 Baldwin St., $11.99/four*

BACON & LEEK
"It doesn't taste like bacon or leek. It tastes like very flat sausage. It could have been ground a little bit more, but It's very balanced for what it is, and the sausage has a nice fullness." *Caprae & Suidae, 1903 Avenue Rd., North York, $26.43/kg.*

RUNNER-UP

NASHVILLE HOT CHICKEN
"This is spicy spicy! It's really overpowering, but if people like spicy, they're going to love this. While it's not my thing, I can appreciate the flavours and understand why it's a favourite." *Bespoke Butchers, 215 Madison Ave., $13.37/three*

HOT MACEDONIAN
"There's a little bit of heat and it's ground really well. It's a touch overcured and could have used a few more percentages of fat, as it's not really juicy, but overall it's a good sausage." *Olliffe Butchers, 1097A Yonge St., $5.81/each*

TURKEY & CRANBERRY
"It's nice that the cranberry isn't chunky. I like that the flavour is still there, but it's not overpowering. I love the leanness of a turkey sausage, and this definitely has great texture." *Stuart Carrol Meats, 7509 Yonge St., Thornhill, $7.99/ lb.*

ORGANIC JERK CHICKEN
"Wow, this is a very well-made sausage! I'm not a huge fan of the flavour combinations, but the sausage is high quality and I like the leanness of the chicken." *The Healthy Butcher, 298 Eglinton Ave. W., $17.99/four*

FOOD

Hot new baked ice cream emporium opens on Steeles

A selection of scoops from Ruru Baked

After operating online since 2017, Ruru Baked, a specialty ice cream maker, has expanded, opening up shop in Markham's Pacific Mall.

Although they no longer sell out in mere minutes, opening weekend back in April seemed to be indicative of the company's ongoing success.

"This was our craziest weekend ever," reads a post on Ruru's Instagram page. "We were nervous and excited, we scooped our hearts out.... To be honest, I didn't anticipate the impact it would have."

Luanne Ronquillo started Ruru Baked six years, selling (and selling out of) pints of delicious custard-based ice cream, before opening the first brick-and-mortar location at Bloor and Lansdowne.

For those not in the ice cream know, custard-based ice cream — also known as French style — is denser and creamier than regular ice cream, which usually tends to be more on the lighter and airier side.

Ronquillo started off serving decadent flavours like the banoffee pie — a creamy banana ice cream, with buttery graham cracker crust crumbs and caramel swirl; passionfruit — made with chunks of banana bread and hints of cream cheese icing; as well as condensed milk + red bean, which all remain bestsellers.

The menu now boasts more than 70 unique and delicious flavours, featuring outlandish combinations that work remarkably well.

Must-try scoops include the brown butter + honey + sage, which is the perfect balance of nutty and fragrant brown butter combined with pure honey and a hint of sage for added earthiness.

For those who are fans of a sweet and savoury combo, the everything bagel is a fun take on how sometimes weird, unexpected things can actually be amazing. Made with cream cheese ice cream and chunks of oniony and garlicky sweet seedy crumble, Ruru promises it's weird but in the best way.

For the youngins' — or the children at heart — seasonal flavour Real Kid is inspired by the classic Laura Secord flavour Super Kid and features a combination of blueberry, strawberry and banana ice cream.

Along with ice cream, the newest location carries Ruru Baked merch, including hoodies, T-shirts and toques and treats like Furikake Bits and Bites — Ruru's spin on the classic Furikake Chex Mix — that's baked in a buttery coating and tossed with roasted seaweed. Products from Spice Girl Eats and Sssoaps are also available.

If one of your favourite flavours sells out — which it probably will — not to fret: new stock arrives every Wednesday and Friday.

Ruru Baked is located at 4300 Steeles Ave. E., Markham. *—Jennifer Schembri*

POST CITY × DIAMOND & DIAMOND

What To Do If You Encounter A Suspected Impaired Driver

Tips from Jeremy Diamond and Sandra Zisckind of Diamond & Diamond Lawyers

SANDRA ZISCKIND

Sandra Zisckind is a lawyer who was called to the Bar in 2003 and practices in the area of Plaintiff personal injury litigation in Toronto

As we make our way into the fair weather months, it's important to be on the lookout for impaired drivers. Noted as Canada's largest personal injury law firm, Diamond & Diamond Lawyers are no strangers to the harsh and sad realities that impaired driving can lead to. The firm's Managing Partner, Sandra Zisckind, outlines 3 things you should do if you suspect an impaired driver on the roads:

1. Ensure Your Own Safety

The first and most important thing you can do after coming across a suspected impaired driver is ensure your own safety. Whether you're driving your own vehicle or are simply a pedestrian walking by, it's important to make your way to a safe location immediately. "One mistake we always hear about is people trying to get out of their vehicle in order to confront the impaired driver before they cause any harm," says Sandra Zisckind. Not only is this unsafe, but it can also lead to tempers flaring and an even worse situation arising.

2. Take Note of Crucial Information

In order to ensure the safety of others, it's important to take note of crucial information about the suspect impaired driver and their vehicle. Some things to take note of are:

- What is the driver doing wrong?

It's important to be able to provide the police with information about why you think they're impaired. For example, they could be swerving all over the road, driving very erratically, or speeding up and slowing down out of nowhere.

- Vehicle Details:

What is the make of the car?
What is the model of the car?
What is the colour of the car?
What is the license plate number?

- Driver Details:

What is the approximate height of the driver?
What is the body build of the driver?

- It's also important to take note of any other identifying characteristics. Note: while this information is very helpful to police, we do not recommend putting yourself in an unsafe situation in order to gather it.

3. Call 9-1-1

The last step to take is to call the authorities in your area. "While the number for emergency services may vary from province to province and country to country, it's important to contact the authorities as quickly as possible," says Sandra Zisckind. The sooner you can alert police of a suspected impaired driver, the sooner they can take this driver off of the roads and ensure public safety.

Learn more about the differences between distracted driving and impaired driving

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a motor vehicle accident, it's important to contact a knowledgeable personal injury lawyer as soon as possible. Diamond & Diamond is Canada's Largest Personal Injury Law Firm and has the experience needed to help you navigate your personal injury claim. Contact the firm today at 1-800-567-HURT to schedule a free consultation.

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L-R: Romi's delicious chocolate crunch, owner Tomer Markovitz

Parallel chef opens new bakery

Last week, the folks over in midtown were treated to the opening of an exciting new eatery by the Israeli chef behind one of Toronto's best Middle Eastern restaurants — Parallel. Called Romi's Bakery, Tomer Markovitz's new venture is offering a little bit of everything.

Although the idea began during pandemic restrictions, when Markovitz saw a demand for the baked goods he began selling, the largest persuasion to open Romi's was the birth of his firstborn child — a daughter who is now the bakery's namesake.

"She gave me the inspiration to open something for her," says Markovitz. "She loves everything I make for her. It's kind of a chef's dream for their kid to love his cooking."

Despite its name, Romi's Bakery provides more than baked goods. Markovitz describes it as a bakery, storefront, market and café. From challah, Jerusalem bagels and babkas to cookies, crackers and the more savoury sandwiches — baba ghanouj and falafel bowls — Romi's has it all.

As a grab-and-go storefront, customers will be able to either purchase menu items already made fresh and in-house, or they can pick up prepared meals to bring home.

Markovitz describes the renovated interior as "very, very clean" with white tiling, custom-made butcher blocks and arches that resemble the stone walls of Jerusalem.

"It has L.A., Mexico vibes to it; a little bit of Tel Aviv."

In the future, Markovitz hopes to rent out Romi's Bakery for private bookings, like corporate events and cocktail parties. He also plans to host events of his own, like chef series featuring other experts of the craft.

Romi's Bakery is located at 744 St. Clair Ave. W.

—Megan Gallant

French restaurant reopens after fire

Recently one of Toronto's most recognizable and beloved French restaurants opened their new location and, although the response has already been promising, it's only just the beginning of Chantecler's rebuild.

In November of 2019, the stylish restaurant, which first opened in Parkdale in 2012, was closed down after a three-alarm fire left the space unusable. Although the butcher shop was quick to reopen across the street at Le Phénix, nothing quite like Chantecler has returned to Toronto — well, until a few months ago that is, when Chantecler 2.0 opened in Bloorcourt, blessing Toronto's passionate foodies with some familiar favourite dishes.

According to owner Jacob Wharton-Shukster, the "beautiful" space is a "complete rebuild, with modern designs and touches, although softer in tone."

Facing out from the corner of Bloor and Crawford, the interior is substantially larger in comparison to the former location, with a 60-seat capacity that includes bar seating so customers can sit up close to the friendly staff.

One of the most significant changes comes in the kitchen, with an expansive menu that builds off the original offerings. Like before the fire, the menu is chef-driven but has, according to Wharton-Shukster, "grown up with the restaurant."

Chantecler currently serves seafood and large and small plates that all focus on French tradition, including a squash vol-au-vent and steak tartar. With the expanded kitchen, Chantecler now serves baked bread and brioche and a full list of dessert items all made in-house.

Chantecler is located across from Christie Pits Park at 798 Bloor St. W. *—MG*

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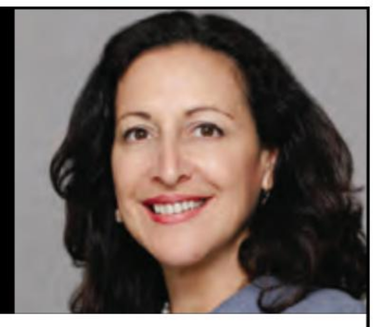

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I look forward to continuing to serve the community and welcome you to reach out.

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Our Village in the city

L-R: The patio at Bar Raval, DaiLo's Nick Liu

The best places to eat in Little Italy right now

Between Trinity Bellwoods and Kensington Market lies one of Toronto's hippest, trendiest and liveliest districts. Little Italy is packed full of culture, good nightlife and excellent food. During the summer months, Little Italy's patios are full of wine connoisseurs dining alfresco, and in the winter, students take over the late night bars and music scene.

DaiLo

DaiLo doesn't just offer a different taste in the neighbourhood compared to all the Italian menus found along the strip, but it offers a menu unique within all neighbourhoods of Toronto. The new Asian cuisine created by chef Nick Liu follows French tradition, making it one of the most multicultural restaurant spots on the strip. The highlight at DaiLo is the tasting menu. The walls of cherry blossom prints make an Insta-worthy location, and chipped white brick walls, from which black-and-white family photos hang, create a homey feeling to the space. *503 College St.*

Café Diplomatico

It's no surprise Café Diplomatico is one of the hottest spots in the neighbourhood. It's been on the strip, attracting locals and visitors for more than 50 years. Serving up seafood, house-made pizzas and fresh pastas, Café Diplomatico prides itself on offering the most authentic experience of an Italian family meal. One of the main legacies from the restaurant is just how much entertainment guests can find at "the Dip" (as locals call it). Whether you're people watching passersby from the buzzing patio or you're seated indoors to watch the latest soccer game, there's always something to keep you entertained. *594 College St.*

Bar Raval

Restaurants in Little Italy won't just transport you to a Mediterranean country, but will give you tastes of all of Europe. Bar Raval is Grant van Gameron's Barcelona-inspired venue. That means a long list of beer is on the menu, as well as a range of sharable tapas. Since metropolitan Spain never sleeps, Bar Raval promises to keep guests going all day, too, serving Sam James coffee in the morning and an ever-changing menu of house cocktails until 1 a.m. Like diners in Europe, be sure to take your time and enjoy the moody atmosphere at Bar Raval. *505 College St.*

—Megan Gallant

Toronto gets its first solo dining spot

If you're proudly single and tired of pitying looks from strangers when you do anything alone, then you'll love Toronto's newest restaurant that caters to parties of one. As the city's first solitary dining restaurant, Yunnan Noodle Shack is proving that sometimes it's kinda cool to ride solo.

Husband-and-wife owners Andy Su and Jane Yu opened Yunnan Noodle Shack last month at 43 Baldwin St.

Everything about the restaurant, from its concept to the menu and even its name, was inspired by Su's hometown of Kunming in China's southwestern province of Yunnan. But it wasn't until a few years ago on a trip back to Yunnan that Su gained inspiration for the new venue while dining alone.

"I was very impressed by the solitary dining concept, because I felt very comfortable sitting there eating my ramen."

Su feels that too often people are distracted when they are dining with others and are being told how to feel about it, rather than allowing themselves to taste and appreciate the full capacity of the meal through their own interpretations, which, he says, is all about how you feel on a given day.

They are currently working on developing boxes to place at each booth, which will include a guide to explain some of the symbolism and characters found throughout the restaurant.

There is also a phone stand on the table, which is intended to be used as a place for customers to set aside their phones so they can enjoy the meal without distractions. *—MG*

Quiet closings leave diners hungry

Just a few months ago and without warning, Smith, the beloved three-level restaurant in Toronto's Gay Village, known for its Instagrammable brunch, announced via social media that it had served its final strawberry cheesecake pancakes — much to the dismay of its loyal patrons.

Although longtime Smith customers will still be able to get their brunch fix at Smith's sister restaurant, 7 West, sadly, this is not the case for a slew of other popular Toronto eateries, which have quietly closed over the last few months, leaving diners in the cold.

Recently, the owners of world-renowned Chinese restaurant Lai Wah Heen decided not to renew their lease after serving elevated dim sum to suits and tourists alike for close to three decades.

So just why are so many well-known restaurants in the city closing up shop without giving their loyal customers a heads up? Take a walk down any of Toronto's streets and you'll find a number of boarded-up windows, and, more often than not, customers are likely to experience deleted social media accounts, disconnected phone lines, expired websites and owners who are almost impossible to get a hold of.

—Jennifer Schembri

Brunch at Smith

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Eat-ings from MUSKOKA

Marsh madness

For three generations, the Johnstons have been growing cranberries in their Muskoka marshes. In the summer months, guests can tour the facility, check out the public art and partake in a number of wine-centric activities, including a bog-to-bottle walking tour and tutored wine tastings.

Cheap & cheerful

Smokin' Birds

Founders (and birds, as they call themselves) Jennifer Dewasha and Jane MacDonald (ex-Café Boulud, Sofia) serve up heaping plates of smoked brisket, pulled pork or turkey breast with delish sides, like pineapple coleslaw, and much more from their parking lot perch in Bala.

Mrs H's Fish and Chips

From her always-busy spot at Wahta Station, Mrs. H, or Berta as she's known around town, claims to have the "best fish and chips north of the South Pole" and the accolades to prove it, earning the title of "the best fish and chips in Muskoka" five years in a row.

Tulo's Taqueria ▲

We're not sure if it's the tequila or the tacos, but this Port Carling hot spot is always buzzing come summer, with its picturesque dockside patio overlooking the lake. Check out the tuna tostada and the intriguing veggie options, then wash it down with a cocktail, like the Surfboard, with tequila, grapefruit juice, agave and soda.

Fine dining

Tall Trees

Who wouldn't want to enjoy a warm summer evening in a romantic gazebo surrounded by nature? If dining alfresco isn't your thing, the historic house at Tall Trees also offers multiple rooms. The food here also stands on its own, and has made this destination a Huntsville fave.

Rawley Resort

What started as a fishing lodge in 1922, has evolved into an expansive lux resort and spa, complete with vantage lakeside views. Lighthouse45 Restaurant has been overhauled by eco-chef Chris Locke, formerly of Toronto's first farm-to-table restaurant, Marben.

Crossroads ▲

Rated among the top 100 in Canada by OpenTable in 2022, the ambience at Crossroads is upscale but homey, and its chef-driven menu highlights seasonal ingredients, including pleasing pastas and scrumptious seafood.

Coffee

Jack & Stella ▲

A modern convenience store for "old-fashioned fun," Bala's Jack & Stella offers a curated selection of food and shopping. Guests can stake a spot on the shop's front porch or lakeside patio for an espresso, big city treats and gourmet sammies for lunch.

Mortimer's Marina

Looking for a road trip? Take the scenic drive up to Mortimer's Point on Lake Muskoka and check in for a latté and boutique shopping at Mortimer's Marina. You'll thank us later. This summer, Mortimer's will also be offering yoga, Pilates and Sculpt classes on the docks.

Ice cream

Muskoka Ice Cream Parlour

Nestled in the heart of Port Sandfield, this enchanting cottage ice cream shop beckons visitors to indulge in a delightful treat of hand-scooped cones, soft-serve twisters and more. Unleash your sweet tooth while watching the boats go by on a sunny afternoon.

PolarDip Ice Cream Shoppe ▼

Located at Muskoka Wharf in Gravenhurst, this is no ordinary ice cream shop. Since 2011, PolarDip has been serving a diverse selection of sweet and savoury treats. Add in the scenic view of Lake Muskoka, and it's a unique ice cream experience for all.

Beer spa

Experience the ultimate cottage spa day at Muskoka BeerSpa. Nestled in a woodland setting, the spa offers hot tubs, cold pools, saunas, cabanas and a beer garden. This adults-only retreat has pub food, Clear Lake Brewing beers and even unique glamping cabins.

Bakeries

◄ The Bakery

Nestled on Brock Street in Gravenhurst, this bakery specializes in savoury and sweet cakes and pies and a variety of breads and baguettes, which are baked fresh each morning. But it's the apple fritter that's put the Bakery on the map: loaded with gooey apple chunks and fried until golden brown, try eating just one!

Windmill Bakery

Founded by a Dutch family in 1976, today Huntsville's Windmill Bakery is run by husband-and-wife team Dan and Grace Willows, who share a common love for wholesome foods. The shop is best known for its sourdough and rye bread, raspberry-filled oatmeal cookies and lemon meringue pie.

Don's Bakery

In the small town of Bala beside the cascading falls, you'll find Don's Bakery. The 75-year-old institution has been keeping Muskoka visitors and locals in pillowy scones for generations. The menu also includes sweet selections like, of course, butter tarts, as well as savoury items, like quiche and chicken pot pie.

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Landmark

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General stores

Rosseau General Store

This cherished Muskoka institution is often described as "cute as a button." Open since 1874, it is more than just a general store experience. With Muskoka-branded clothing, hardware, cottage games, puzzles and a delightful selection of groceries including local produce, it's a must-visit.

Robinson's General Store

The century-old general store in Dorset, now under new ownership, has reopened. Serving the community year-round, it provides a variety of cottage essentials, produce, highly rated ice cream and more. The rustic sign outside makes for a perfect road trip photo op.

Torrance General ▲

This rebranded general store offers an elevated experience. Alongside the main store, you'll find the Streamliner Coffee and Goods, a coffee shop and Potbelly's, a peameal sandwich shop. The store features sleek branding and a selection of sophisticated products.

Designer pop-ups

L'eau

Dive into the charming world of L'eau in Port Carling. Discover a treasure trove of timeless cottage-inspired jewelry, clothing and goods, carefully curated to embody the essence of stylish lakeside living while embracing local artisans and sustainable practices.

The Outpost

The Outpost by Wolfe has opened its doors in Minett. Explore a thoughtfully curated collection of comfortable and versatile wardrobe essentials, including gender-neutral pieces like the Addley linen dresses and Huxley T-shirts, all designed and locally made in Canada.

Snapdragon ▲

This renowned lifestyle women's boutique with a pop-up shop in Minett offers an enchanting collection of fashion, homeware and gifts, ranging from luxurious cashmere to resort wear and bohemian jewelry, making it a must-visit shopping destination.

Farmers markets

Gravenhurst Farmers Market

Running on some Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. until October, opening festivities at this farmers market are happening June 7. The organizers promise a slew of fun activities and themed dates this summer, including giveaways, activities for children, music, monthly market bags and more. Currently, its events calendar shows a strawberry season celebration on June 28 and a Canada Day celebration.

Bracebridge Farmers Market

Beginning June 3, this market will run weekly on Saturdays until Oct. 2 this year from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Frequently visited by both locals and tourists, vendors include bakeries, bee farms, jewelry makers and even a plant-based company. After you shop, you can head to one of the local breweries in town while you snack on your treats.

Haute cottage

Hilltop Interiors

Indulge in luxury and charm at this cute shop in the picturesque town of Rousseau. This premier destination offers a curated collection of cottage-inspired furniture and home accessories from elegant dining sets to timeless cosy sofas to create a cottage sanctuary.

Red Bean ▼

This Port Carling home furnishing store and showroom boasts an extensive array of distinctive furniture and accessories, like the perfect cottage throw pillow. It's an ideal destination for those seeking to enhance the cottage ambience or find the perfect gift.

Wine & shopping, oh my

Experience the ultimate summer soiree in Minett on Lake Rosseau with the return of the beloved Ladies' Nights July 13 and Aug. 10, featuring over 25 vendors, a fashion show, live music, refreshing libations and an abundance of joyous entertainment for all to revel in.

Antiques and oddities

◄ Flying Star Antiques

Discover Flying Star, a Bracebridge shop with a wonderful selection of curated antiques, gifts and rare gems. The owners travel extensively to bring Muskoka shoppers the coolest finds. Flying Star offers on-site restoration of antique furniture in its workshop. Perfect for cottage-goers seeking farmhouse decor and style updates.

Antiques on 11 North

On a rainy day, visit the antique mall in Severn for a thrilling day of hunting. Spanning 6,000 square feet and hosting over 50 vendors, explore it booth by booth to discover peculiar and nostalgic items from different eras. Despite its size, the mall is well-organized and not overwhelming.

Currie's Music and Antiques

Currie's antique shop is an essential stop for music lovers and record collectors. It offers diverse themed rooms with a wide range of antique treasures, including books, paintings and vintage collectibles. The friendly shop owners provide helpful advice when selecting instruments for your collection.

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Playing in MUSKOKA

Chase waterfalls

Discovering Muskoka's hidden waterfalls is a wonderous and classic cottage country adventure. Bracebridge is the place to be, with a variety of falls to choose from, including Bracebridge, Muskoka and Wilson's Falls. Immerse yourself in nature's tranquility and witness mesmerizing cascading waters.

Makin' memories

Water-ski shows ▸

There is something special about sidling up alongside Lake Muskoka in Bala to watch a Tuesday night water-ski show by the folks at SWS Boatworks. The talent on display is amazing, often involving national-level athletes, but it's more than that. It's festive, it's silly and it's a fun time.

Muskoka Drive-in

Step back in time and enjoy a nostalgic movie experience at the drive-in that time forgot outside Gravenhurst. Here, amidst a throng of mosquitoes, you can relish the charm of watching films under the starry sky from the comfort of your car. Just don't cheap out on the bug spray.

Aspen Wildlife Sanctuary

A hidden gem in Muskoka, head here to connect with nature and witness the dedication to wildlife conservation at the sanctuary. Explore its picturesque trails, encounter rescued animals up close, and appreciate the ongoing efforts to protect and rehabilitate local wildlife.

Get outside!

See the stars like never before

Marvel at the celestial wonders at Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Preserve, renowned for its unobstructed views of the night sky and the chance to witness breathtaking astronomical phenomena. The area is pitch-black, so bring a flashlight and get ready for a serious sense of wonder.

Flyboarding mania

Water-skiing misses the mark? Not interested in wakeboarding? Now you can take to the skies and experience the adrenaline rush of flyboarding at SWS at legendary Clevelands House in Minnett. Soar above the water and perform thrilling maneuvers in a safe and controlled environment.

Old-timey log rolling ▲

Talk about an all-Canadian activity; now, you can challenge your skills and have a blast with log rolling as well as rowing activities offered by Hatchet Rowing Centre, providing exhilarating water-based adventures and memorable experiences in the heart of the charming town of Port Carling.

Zen out

Boathouse Yoga ▲

This gorgeous female-owned studio overlooks Lake Rosseau. Enjoy vinyasa yoga classes suitable for all levels in a rustic boathouse setting. Experience lakeside flows, weekend retreats and private sessions on the dock. Embrace the beauty of nature.

Spirit Bay

Experience tranquility at this stunning fitness studio on Lake Muskoka. Offering indoor-outdoor yoga, pilates and barre classes with stunning views, this serene studio is located at Spirit Bay Harbour. Enjoy classes in this open-air space surrounded by boats and nature.

Paddles up

The Oxtongue Classic

Canoeing the lower Oxtongue River from Algonquin to Lake of Bays is a captivating journey through diverse landscapes. Surrounded by forests, wildlife and serene waters, it offers an unforgettable experience for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers.

Sunset on Rosseau ▼

Lake Joseph is renowned for its unparalleled sunsets. With its pristine beauty, serene waters and picturesque surroundings, it offers the perfect setting to witness breathtaking hues as the sun sets below the horizon. Paddling on Lake Joseph is magic.

Celeb spotting

Celebrities have always flocked to Muskoka from Clark Gable back in the day to Kurt Russel and Goldie Hawn and the latest crop like cottagers Tom Hanks and Cindy Crawford.

Righteous tunes

◂ Muskoka Music Festival

Founded by Toronto musician and Gravenhurst local Miranda Mulholland, the Muskoka Music Festival (formerly Sawdust City Music Festival) is a celebration of diverse musical genres, with talented artists, live performances and a warm community ambience, featuring Loreena McKennitt on Aug. 19.

Kee to Bala

One of the most iconic concert venues in Canada, the historic Kee to Bala has been a source of entertainment for cottagers going back generations. This special place hosts a great concert series throughout the summer, featuring top acts this season such as the Sheepdogs, Metric, Kim Mitchell and Sam Roberts.

Tall Pines Festival

Immerse yourself in the magic of the Tall Pines Music Festival, where talented musicians gather in a scenic outdoor setting at the Gravenhurst waterfront, creating an unforgettable fusion of music, nature and community. This year's festival, scheduled for June 16 to 17, features Blue Rodeo, Serena Ryder, I Mother Earth and many more.

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"The Lady of the Lake," a Victorian hotel, has been a cherished establishment since 1870. With modern upgrades, it offers excellent sports facilities as well as amenities, like a reading library, catered picnic baskets and firepits with s'mores kits. The resort features lakeside dining options.

Sherwood Inn ▲

Muskoka's premier lakeside retreat has been providing stunning surroundings, elegant accommodations, fine dining and exceptional amenities since 1939. This romantic inn offers a range of activities ensuring a memorable stay on the peaceful shores of Lake Joseph.

Resorts

JW Marriott The Rosseau

Embrace the beauty of Lake Rosseau from your suite surrounded by lush greenery at this resort. Enjoy access to a spa with outdoor amenities, an indoor-outdoor pool and whirlpool. Take advantage of activities like fishing and sunset cruises, or relax on the hotel's private beaches.

Taboo Muskoka Resort & Golf

This four-star hotel is a golfer's paradise, featuring a beautiful and challenging golf course on site. Located on Lake Muskoka, its guests enjoy the longest private sandy beach in town, a range of amenities and opportunities for canoeing and kayaking, nature hikes and bonfires.

Touchstone Resort ▲

Discover the luxurious Touchstone Resort on Lake Muskoka, where stunning buildings blend seamlessly with the granite landscape and offer skylights and modern furnishings. This waterfront resort features a range of accommodations and amenities, like an infinity pool and on-site dining.

Treehuggers

The Eco-Cabin ▲

Tap into your inner treehugger and escape to this off-grid cabin, a modern and sustainable retreat surrounded by towering pines and granite boulders. The cabin features a loft and a screened-in Muskoka room. Enjoy the forest bathing hippies.

Tamarack Treehouse

This cosy off-grid retreat offers a perfect blend of rustic charm and modern comforts, featuring a wood-burning stove, a loft sleeping area and a unique elevated design to immerse yourself in the surrounding pine trees and embrace the beauty of nature.

Buy an island

Crown Island

Escape the hustle and bustle at this $3 million magical retreat nestled off the shore of Mary Lake. With private access to a pristine shoreline, charming walking trails, cosy living quarters and stunning sunsets, this 17.82-acre island offers the perfect Muskoka setting.

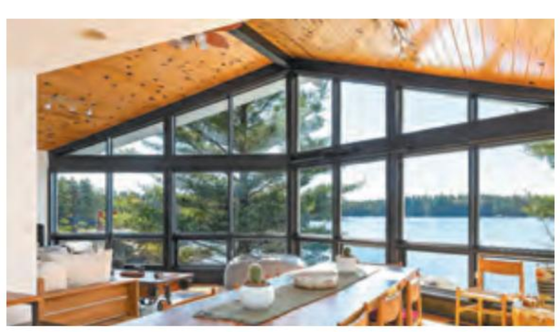
Mossy Rock ▼

This stunning private island on Lake Muskoka features an architecturally designed boathouse and an exquisite 1,800-square-foot cottage. Enjoy unrivalled artisanship, breathtaking lake views and peaceful tranquility in this one-of-a-kind $3.895 million retreat.

Camp

Escape to picturesque Six Mile Lake Provincial Park with its stunning landscape that has inspired artists. Enjoy the tranquility of three sandy beaches, swimming waters and scenic hiking trails. There are also six campgrounds in a natural setting, making it the perfect destination for a weekend camping.

Luxe retreats



◄ Marrakesh Retreat

Escape to this curated experience with stunning lakefront views and a range of amenities, including a sauna, firepits and a home theatre. Enjoy 230 feet of private waterfront, a walk-in sandy beach and activities like canoeing and kayaking. Indulge in the beauty of Kahshe Lake at this luxe retreat.

Serenity now! ►

Experience the perfect blend of privacy, stunning views and comfort at Serenity on Otter Lake.This architect-owned and designed cottage boasts floor-to-ceiling windows, a spacious great room with a wood-burning fireplace and a chef's kitchen. With direct access to the lake, a terrace and a loft overlooking the forest, this is a haven for relaxation.

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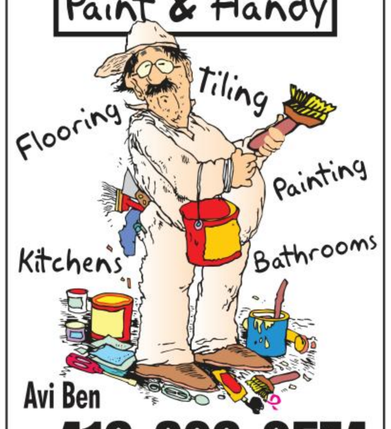

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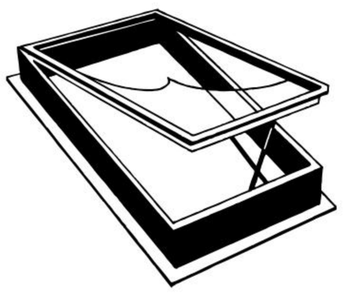

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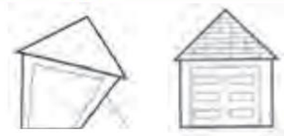

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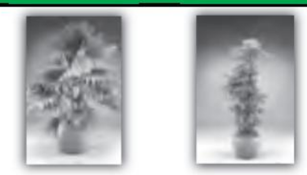

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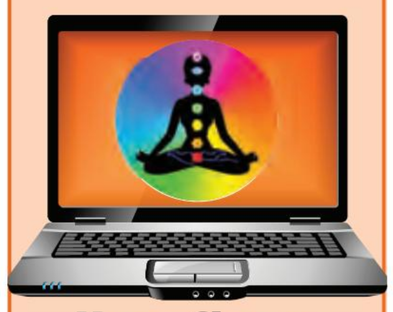

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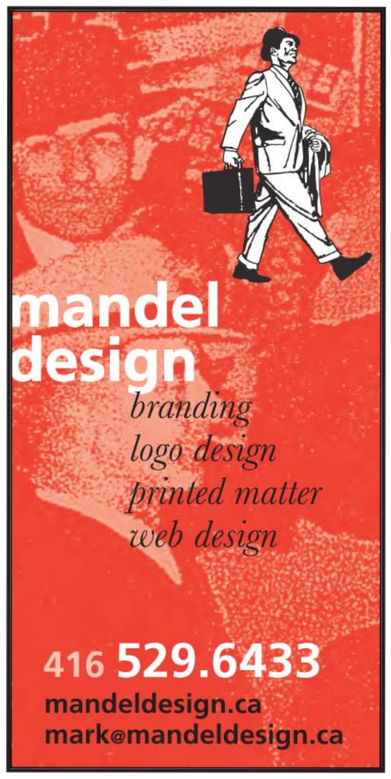

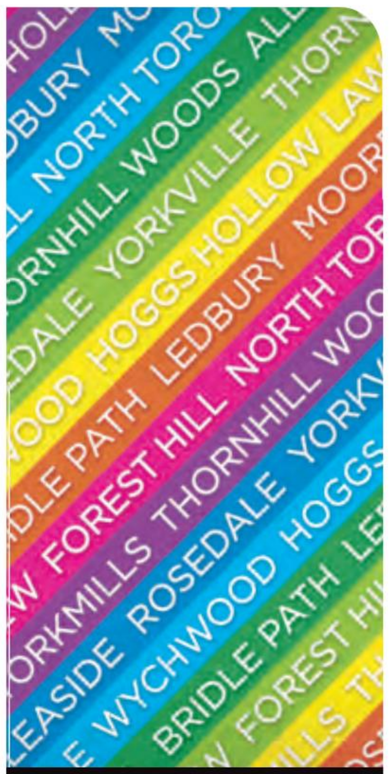

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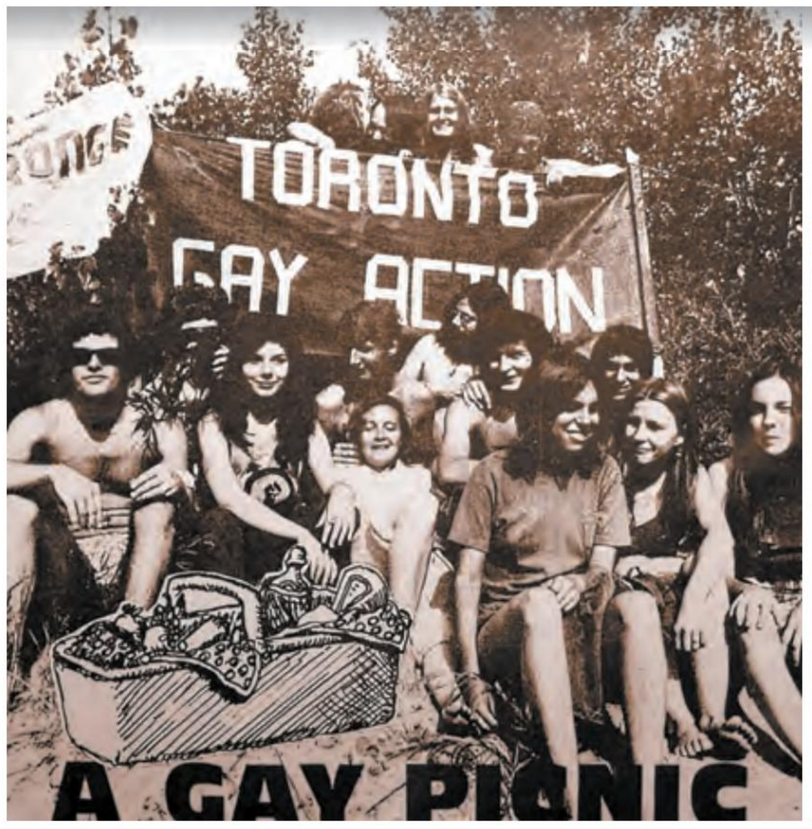
LOOKING BACK

Before you go... we wanted to highlight the remarkable journey of Toronto Pride: Unveiling a trailblazing history!

JUNE 2023 EDITION



Witness the remarkable evolution of Toronto Pride Parade in 1972 from a peaceful island gathering to a breathtaking celebration of diversity, equality and love, symbolizing the enduring power of the LGBTQ+ movement.

Unsilenced Voices: The Unyielding Fight of Canada's Gay Community in the 1980s AIDS Crisis. Witness their relentless struggle for recognition and change, shaping groundbreaking initiatives and igniting hope.

Gay fathers proudly march in 1991, banner boldly proclaiming 'closets are for kids' toys,' challenging stereotypes and inspiring a generation with their powerful message of love and acceptance.

Toronto's LGBTQ+ Community: From Struggle to Strength. Witness their resilience in a time of adversity, as vibrant bar and bath culture thrived alongside dedicated activist groups, shaping a brighter future.

The 1981 Pride Parade: A Turning Point in Toronto LGBTQ+ History. From turmoil to triumph, witness the resilience and evolution of Pride celebrations, fuelled by activism and community strength, shaping the monumental events we know today.

Toronto Pride Parade: Activism Turned Celebration. BLM disrupts, demands inclusion, police removal, fuelling the ongoing fight for social justice. Pride amplifies LGBTQ+ voices, uniting in the pursuit of equality and acceptance.

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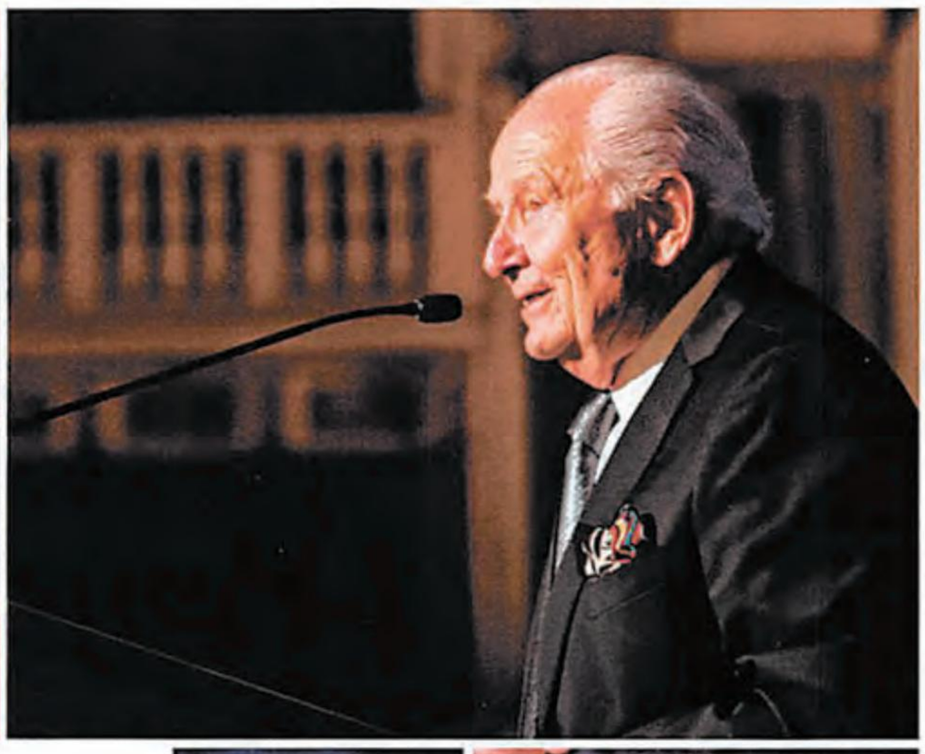
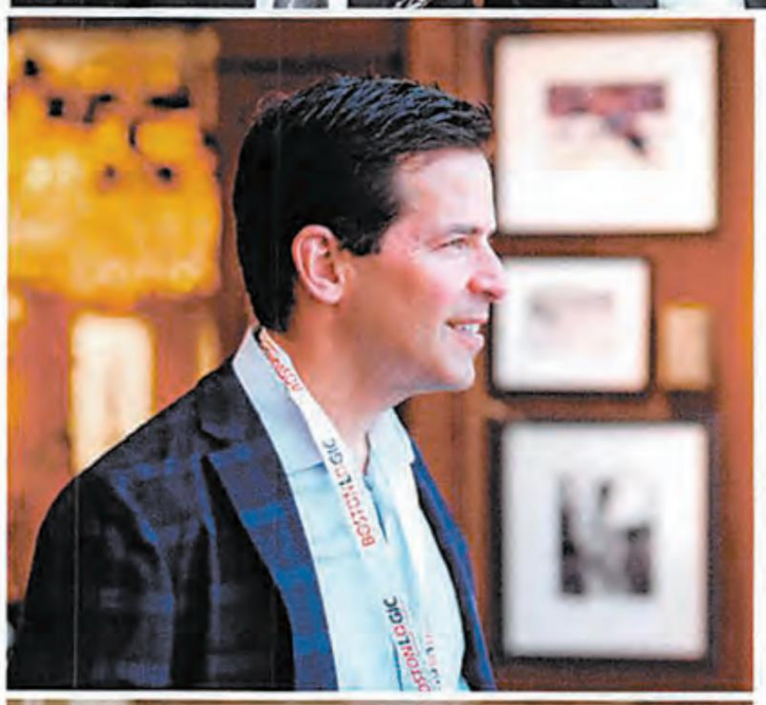
WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS





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